THE JOURNAL OF MASTER GNOST-DURAL

COMPILED BY *Jedi Grand Master Satele Shan*

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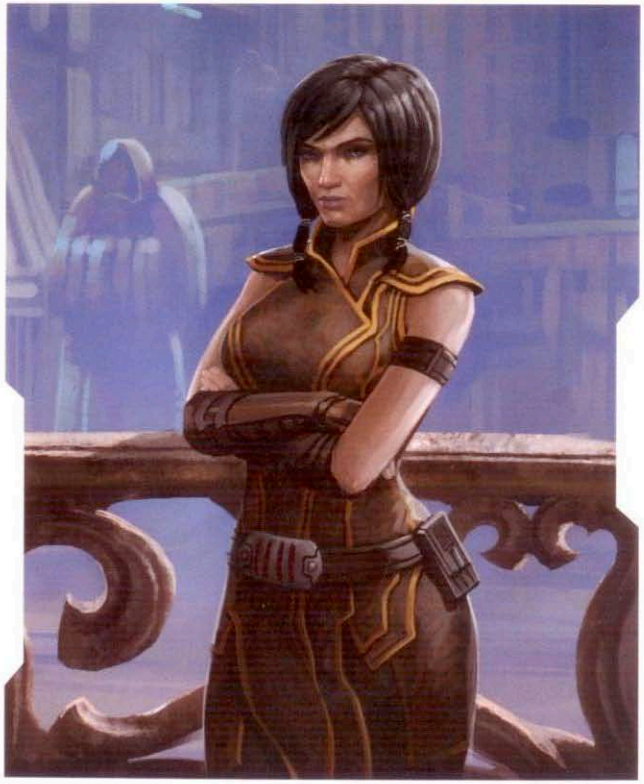
My fellow Jedi,

This volume contains the experience and research of one of the most esteemed members of our Order and one of the greatest scholars of our time. Not only did Master Gnost-Dural fight courageously during the Great War, but his studies helped guide the Jedi Council in some of its most difficult times. He has also given us an invaluable resource by keeping an honest and thoughtful journal for the duration of his distinguished career. Master Gnost-Dural is now focused on reconstructing the Jedi Archives that were destroyed in the Temple on Coruscant, and the Council has decided that his journal should be among the first records to be added to that wealth of wisdom. I believe Master Gnost-Dural's journal tells the story of our times as well as it can be told. I've taken the liberty of highlighting the most relevant portions of the journal in this abridged version and included my own reflections where appropriate.



I hope the knowledge contained herein can help us all better prepare for the days to come.

—Jedi Grand Master Satele Shan

CHAPTER ONE: ON THE HISTORY OF THE JEDI ORDER

Today I have decided to begin keeping a journal. As Padawans, we are forced to spend a great deal of time in the Jedi Archives. While some of my fellow pupils find this tedious, I find it to be absolutely fascinating—centuries of Jedi wisdom preserved in its purest form. I expressed my appreciation for the Archives to Master Bestros, who suggested that if I were truly interested in history, I should begin keeping my own personal record. Though I never considered that I might contribute to the vast knowledge in the Archives, I begin this endeavor in just such a spirit. Perhaps this may also be a convenient way to keep track of my studies for later reference.

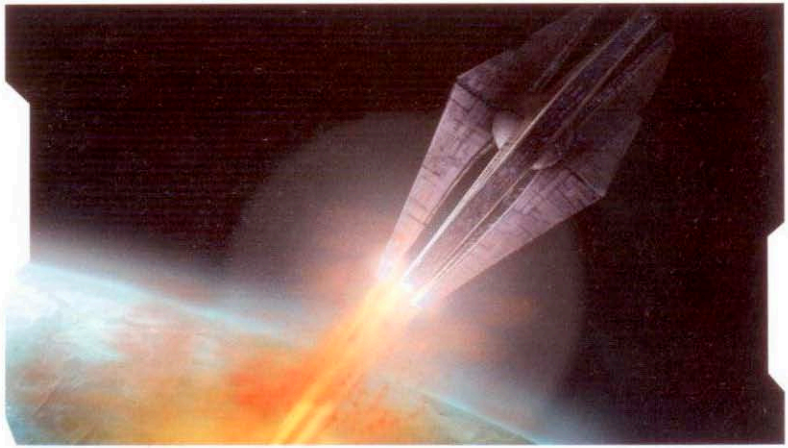
—Padawan Gnost-Dural

During the past months, I have attained a much deeper understanding of our Order by exploring its earliest history. I was pleased to learn that the roots of the Jedi lie in a group of scholars and scientists from several star systems who gathered on an ancient planet called Tython to study the mysteries of the universe. Though much of our teachings today focus on peacekeeping and diplomacy, it was in the spirit of intellectual pursuit and scientific

study that the Force was first discovered. It seems these Tythonian scholars unlocked the secrets of the Force without any known predisposition. Does this mean that even those who show little sensitivity to the Force could be taught some of our ways? That question will have to wait for another day, but I do find the story of these ancients on Tython to be of the highest interest. It is my hope, in fact, that should I ever become a Jedi Knight, I might visit this ancient world and see what remains of our predecessors' civilization.

**Thanks in no small part to Master Gnost-Dural and other scholars like him, many historical revelations have come to light in the decades since he made this journal entry. One of the most intimidating discoveries to resurface is that a species known as the Rakata discovered the Force centuries before the scholars on Tython.

Not only had the Rakata mastered the use of the Force, but they had constructed an extensive civilization known as the "Infinite Empire," which stretched across countless star systems and may have even dwarfed the Republic in size. Though there are still Rakata living today, the secrets of their ancestors are long since lost, and the question of how their civilization collapsed remains a mystery. We do know, however, that the Rakata constructed the Star Forge, the terrible weapon of war that Darth Malak used to nearly destroy the Republic three hundred years ago. We were fortunate that the redeemed Jedi, Revan, managed to destroy the Star Forge and prevent a total catastrophe. Scholars suggest Revan uncovered more information about the Rakata's history during those times, but whatever Revan may have known disappeared along with the man himself three centuries ago.



To satisfy my own curiosity, I've been searching the Archives for any further information relating to the ancient world of Tython and have discovered more details about what occurred there. As the Tythonian scholars grew in understanding of the Force and became more

proficient in its manipulation, a controversy developed among them. One group of Tythonians came to believe that their newly discovered Force abilities gave them a mandate to rule the galaxy, to keep order among the star systems, and to direct the future of civilization. The other Tythonian scholars disagreed, believing the gifts they had discovered should only be used for the advancement of knowledge, never for the pursuit of power. These philosophical differences divided the Tythonians and eventually started the Force Wars.

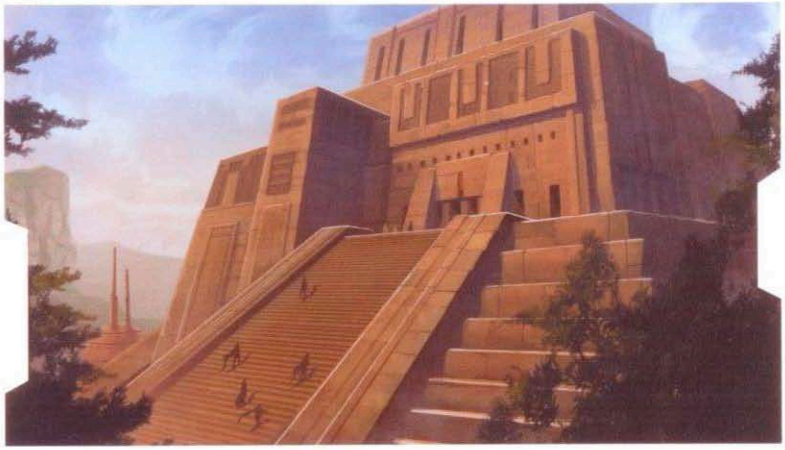
There are few details about the conflict. Those who believed the Force should only be used for knowledge emerged victorious, but not before the violence had catastrophically damaged the planet itself. I am disappointed to learn of the destruction on Tython. Nonetheless, it would be of interest to determine its location.

***How ironic is it that I am reading this so many years later right here on Tython? Though many Jedi deserve recognition for helping to rediscover the planet, Master Gnost-Dural's role should not be underestimated. He and other Jedi scholars, like Master Yuon Parr, have studied the ruins of this ancient world and uncovered information that has taught us even more about the rise and fall of the Tythonians, but there is undoubtedly still more to learn.*

It's worth noting that there is evidence that the native Tythonian Flesh Raiders are somehow connected to the legacy of the darkness of the Force Wars. I myself have been somewhat skeptical, but I must concede that recent events suggest that the Flesh Raiders are more dangerous than we originally believed.

Despite my keen interest in Tython, the events surrounding the establishment of the official Jedi Order have proven to be equally impressive. We were acquainted with many of the facts as part of our lessons, but I have researched these events further on my own time. The survivors of the Force Wars relocated to the planet Ossus, where they built a great library and, for the first time, designated members of the Order formally as Jedi.

What I find most interesting is that the early Jedi studied self-defense and the ways of war only because they recognized the importance of protecting the secrets they had discovered. They had learned from the Force Wars and rightly predicted that there would always be those who sought to use the Force for personal gain. This revelation reinforces my conviction that the pursuit of knowledge is the noblest of Jedi traditions. It should be no surprise that the Jedi Code was first derived in these ancient times to ensure the Jedi would not themselves succumb to the temptations of power their knowledge offered.

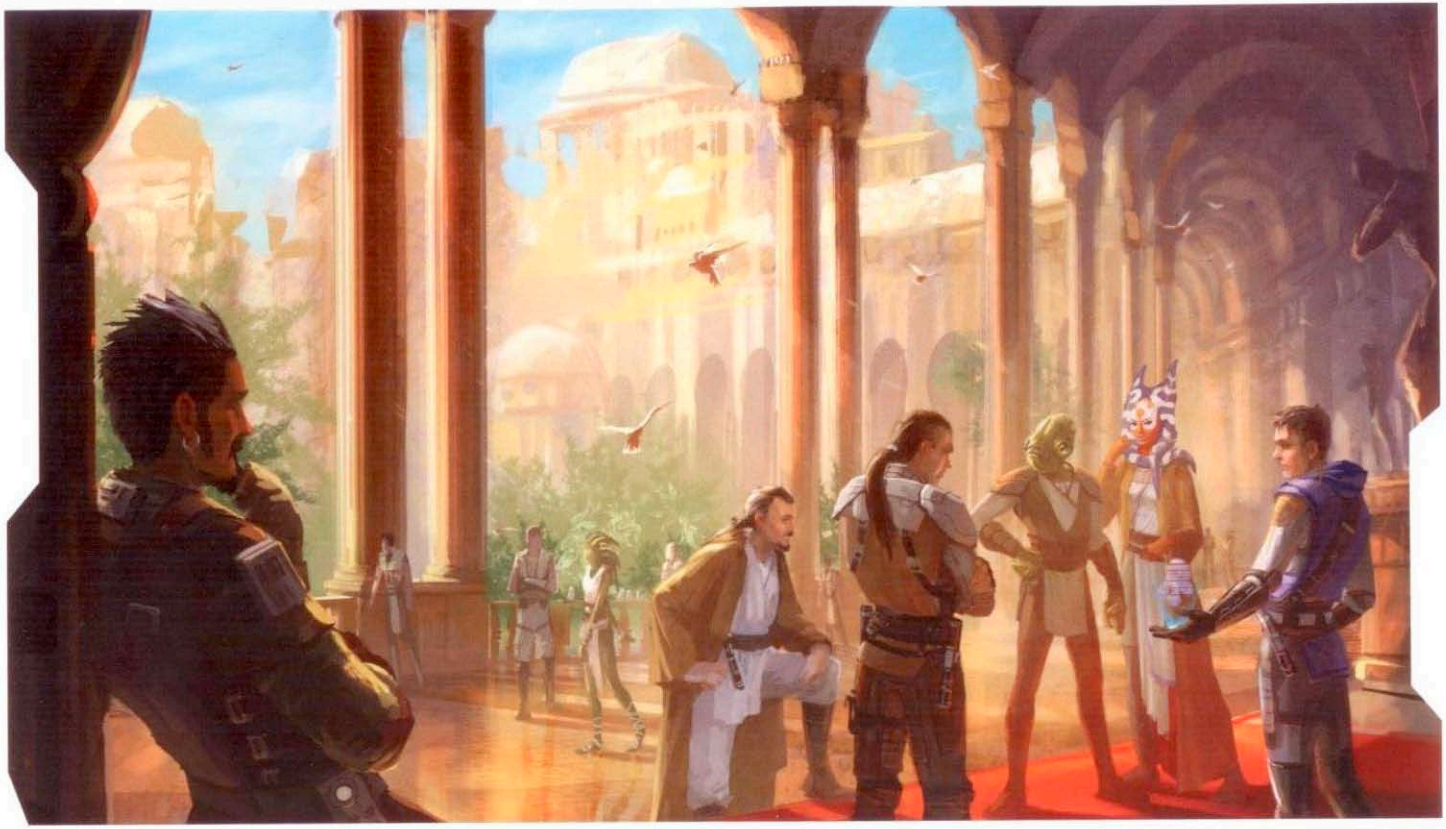


THERE IS NO EMOTION; THERE IS PEACE.
THERE IS NO IGNORANCE; THERE IS KNOWLEDGE.
THERE IS NO PASSION; THERE IS SERENITY.
THERE IS NO CHAOS; THERE IS HARMONY.
THERE IS NO DEATH; THERE IS THE FORCE.

Though Jedi Master Odan-Urr developed a revised version of the Code omitting the fourth line, the Order still generally observes the Code as it was in its earliest form. I am surprised the original tenets have remained constant throughout the centuries, but perhaps that is only testament to the simple elegance with which they were composed.

Though my personal research remains focused on the early Jedi, I must acknowledge that today's group lesson on the founding of the Galactic Republic was fascinating. The principles from which the Senate derived the Galactic Constitution were truly admirable, and it's easy to see why the early Jedi were quick to promise the Republic their loyalty and protection. Though there are politicians in the Senate who question whether the Republic would be better off without the Jedi, I personally believe the Republic has endured so many centuries primarily because the Jedi have been here to guard and defend it.

**While it's always refreshing to hear a Padawan's enthusiasm for the history of our Order, I must note with some disappointment that more time wasn't spent studying the history of other cultures and civilizations around the galaxy. We might



have been better prepared for the war had we been taught more about the history of the Hutt Empire, the Mandalorians, and even more significant, the history of the Sith.

I am pleased to report that the Council today has chosen to grant me the title of Jedi Knight. I truly appreciate the honor and meant every word when I swore to uphold the Jedi Code in all my actions and defend the Galactic Republic to my dying breath.

On that note, I encountered a disturbing sight while I was making my way back to the Jedi Temple tonight—newscast holo-screens displayed images relayed back from the Tingel Arm, where Republic diplomatic ships had approached several unidentified star cruisers that recently entered Republic space. I watched with disbelief as the star cruisers opened fire on the diplomatic ships with no warning whatsoever. Hundreds of innocent lives were lost, and we still know nothing of the aggressors. The Jedi Council has been meeting to discuss this unexpected turn of events, and I hope they decide to respond quickly. Besides the unsettling nature of any such military threat, the images left me with a feeling even more ominous and more uncomfortable than what I would have expected.

***This was the first sign of the Sith Empire's return, and the last day we enjoyed the peace so many of us had come to take for granted. It was a day that forever changed the course of Republic history. We now know, of course, that the Empire had been preparing their attack for decades, if not centuries.*

In recent years, there's even been speculation that Imperial infiltrators were operating in Republic circles of power, and possibly even within the Jedi Order for many years prior to the initial attack. Master Gnost-Dural himself has been researching this and has identified a suspicious series of events surrounding Jedi Master Barel Ovair and one of his Padawans. If the theories are true, it stands to reason that there may be spies among us even today. Therefore, I've been trying to find a way to ferret these traitors out, however deeply embedded they might be. Our best hope is a young Padawan under the tutelage of Master Nomen Kar who is showing signs of an amazing aptitude—the ability to sense the dark side in a person's spirit. I have high hopes for this young Jedi, and look forward to the possibilities when these gifts become fully realized.

An event far darker than our worst fears has occurred—the Sith Empire has returned. The ships we saw on that fateful transmission from the Tingel Arm were just one prong of a massive attack. We had believed that the Sith were extinct for nearly one thousand years, their civilization destroyed in the Hyperspace War, but there can be

no questioning it—these Sith are remnants of the same society that nearly destroyed the Republic centuries ago. The reason we are sure of this is that these Sith bear close physical resemblance to the ancient Sith. Though they have interbred with humans for centuries, the hallmarks are unmistakable—many have the characteristic red skin, and some even have the vestigial facial tendrils.

Several fallen Jedi have called themselves Sith Lords in the centuries since the Hyperspace War, but they were not descendants of the Sith Empire, and this is an important distinction. Another fact supporting the theory of the aggressors' origins is that Korriban, the ancient Sith homeworld, was the first of their targets. Even before we saw those images from the Tingel Arm, the enemy had launched a surprise attack to retake Korriban.

Due to Korriban's history, the Jedi Order has always maintained a vigil over the planet. In recent years, however, the number of personnel on Korriban's orbital security station was reduced, leaving only a small, unprepared force to defend the planet when the might of the Sith Empire came crashing down. Miraculously, a Jedi Padawan managed to survive the attack and returned to Coruscant to inform the Jedi Council of what happened—that Korriban was back in the enemy's hands.

** I was the Padawan whom Master Gnost-Dural referred to, and though it's no easy memory to revisit, I will share the story. Of course, I would not even be here to tell it if not for the heroism of Master Kao Cen Darach. Master Kao was the most principled Jedi I have ever met, staunchly opposed to the dark side of the Force in all its forms. Rigid in his beliefs, Master Kao had caused friction in the political reality of Coruscant. Perhaps that was why he was assigned to the remote security outpost over Korriban, or perhaps he had foreseen what was to come and asked for the responsibility. I had come to study under Master Kao to learn about the dangers of the dark side, and indeed I did.

Not long after I arrived, an unknown freighter landed on Korriban's surface, and Master Kao and I were sent to investigate along with a Republic officer I have come to respect as much as any Jedi in the Order—Corporal Jace Malcom. We arrived just in time to apprehend the thief—a freighter captain named Nico

Okarr. Captain Okarr's cargo hold was packed tight with Sith artifacts. We apprehended the captain, impounded his ship, and were just escorting him to a detention cell on the station when I was overcome with the deepest sense of pain and dread I had ever experienced.

I barely recall the moments that came after: Massive battle cruisers dropped out of hyperspace, and dozens of Imperial starfighters swarmed the small outpost. I was nearly paralyzed with shock, but Master Kao reacted calmly and wisely—he immediately recognized that the attackers were Sith and that the outpost would be overwhelmed. Master Kao's only concern was that we warn the Republic. With no long-range ships on hand, we had no choice but to attempt an escape aboard Captain Okarr's freighter. We raced to the hangar bay with an Imperial boarding party right on our heels.

There in the hangar I first encountered the most dangerous embodiment of the dark side I have experienced—the man who

would later be known as Darth Malgus. Malgus and his master must've sensed our presence. They landed their interceptor in the hangar entrance, blocking our escape, and the two Sith rushed to confront us. I had engaged in hundreds of practice duels with my fellow Padawans, but nothing prepared me for the sheer ferocity of the Sith. Darth Malgus would have killed me then and there were it not for Master Kao. In fact, none of us would have survived that day, for even as Captain Okarr's freighter rushed for the freedom of space, the Sith

were prepared to destroy it. Master Kao didn't hesitate. He ordered me to board the ship, while he remained behind to battle the Sith and ensure our escape.

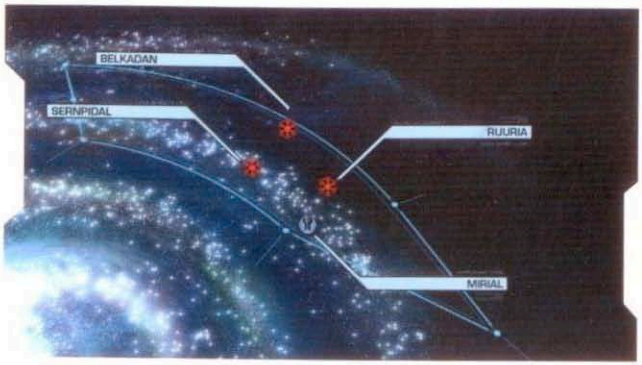
Aboard Captain Okarr's ship, we blew past the Sith interceptor and into open space, but we were far from safe. The moment we emerged from the station, we came under fire from dozens of Imperial fighters. It was no coincidence that Captain Okarr had come to Korriban that day. It was the Force. No other pilot could

have so deftly maneuvered us through that maelstrom. I owe him as much as I owe Master Kao.

In the moments before we jumped to hyperspace, I sensed Master Kao's defeat. I swore he would not die in vain. At the time, I thought that merely meant returning to warn the Republic, but as I look back now, I realize that I am still trying to keep that promise today.

Any opportunity of ending this war quickly has passed. In the weeks since we learned of the attack on Korriban, each day has brought increasingly distressing news. After seeing the images from the Tingel Arm, the Senate dispatched the Republic fleet to respond. Even as we learned of the attack on Korriban, the fleet was flying into the Empire's trap. The Sith had already established ties with local governments in the Dalonbian sector, and no sooner had the fleet arrived than our allies turned on us. Our ships were surrounded and forced to flee back to Mirial, many battle cruisers scattering to even more-distant locations. Since then, the Republic fleet has been separated, and military officials have failed determine where the ships should rendezvous.

It seems some in the Senate still argue that the Sith are just another upstart—an obscure, violent species that will be easily defeated if we act patiently and focus on coming up with a comprehensive strategy. Others in the Senate realize that we must immediately regroup and respond, but even among those politicians, there is widespread disagreement about where the fleet should be deployed. The Jedi Council has been under no delusions and has been among those petitioning the Senate for a fast response, but we've all watched in horror as sector after sector has fallen under the Empire's might. The Council has decided that we must take action. Even now, myself and hundreds



THE TINGEL ARM

of other Jedi are en route to help defend the Minos Cluster. Let us hope that the Senate will soon follow suit and deploy more military resources to assist us.

We have only just learned of another terrible military defeat. The strategically vital world of Sluis Van has fallen. Not only were the shipyards that encircled the planet destroyed, but we are told that the Sith invaders slaughtered everyone who did not immediately swear allegiance to the apparent leader of the Sith, an unnamed Emperor of whom absolutely nothing is known.

The slaughter on Sluis Van seems to be consistent with a patterned Imperial strategy. On worlds where the local government is quick to disavow the Republic, the Empire has been content to refrain from military action. Though

even on these worlds, the local governments are often being dismantled and replaced with Imperial governors. On worlds where the Empire meets resistance, there is no mercy. Entire populations have either been massacred or enslaved. Regardless of the local government's response, Republic military personnel have not been given the option of surrender. They have been hunted down and slaughtered. The number of casualties is impossible to estimate.

As we are now dropping out of hyperspace in the Minos Cluster, I must conclude this journal entry. I hope it is not my last, but even if that does become the case, let it be known that despite all the tragic news, we Jedi enter this battle bravely, trusting that the Force will guide us in restoring peace.

*** Master Gnost-Dural's account of the early days of the war illustrates the fear and confusion that pervaded every level of Republic society. After my return from Korriban, the Jedi Council requested multiple debriefs on the events that took place there, and surprisingly allowed me to sit in on strategic discussions. Though it is true that the Senate was paralyzed in deliberation for too long, we must acknowledge that this can be the price for the freedoms we enjoy. As I look back on these events now, the disappointment and frustration are gone. Instead, I am inspired to recall how, even amid such confusion, courageous unity emerged.*

I can clearly recall the day Gnost-Dural and so many of my fellow Jedi boarded battle cruisers and left to defend the Minos Cluster. After the Jedi departed, true chaos broke out on Coruscant. The people had heard

about wave after wave of crushing Imperial victories, and when the Jedi deployed, the tension overflowed. Pandemonium ensued as some people rallied for war and others rallied for restraint. Still others used the opportunity to riot and break the law. It was disturbing to see the fear and desperation in the eyes of so many Republic citizens.

In the days that followed, reports began filtering back of the brutal battle in the Minos Cluster and the heroism and sacrifice of the Jedi as they fought the Sith. As tragic as the news often was, I felt incredibly proud, and other Republic citizens must have felt the same. The riots quelled and people began lining up at military recruitment centers, volunteering to join and fight with the Jedi. The Senate debate became less self-interested; talk shifted toward coming together to plan a unified response. This was the power of democracy at work, the validation of the principles we fight for, and the proof that, when cornered, the Republic can come together to make a courageous stand.

We have been dug in here on Eliad for many months, and though the battle has been hard-fought, we have held our ground. We are receiving similar reports from Jedi forces on other planets in the Minos Cluster. I hope these developments have been relayed back to Coruscant so that spirits may be lifted during these dark times.

News has been mixed from other parts of the Outer Rim. We learned that Republic forces were finally mobilizing to counterattack the Imperials in the Seswenna sector, but soon afterward, they were painfully defeated and hundreds of Republic soldiers were captured. Their fate remains unknown, but from the Empire's previous treatment of Republic military personnel, we know not to be too optimistic. There is yet hope in the Seswenna sector, as we understand that the Republic fleet regrouped and broke up the blockade of the Rimma trade route, meaning more resources to support fighting there and for those of us battling here in the Minos Cluster.

I have battled many Imperial soldiers in the weeks since we first arrived, but I only recently came face-to-face

with a young Sith. From the accounts of their ferocity, I had feared such a confrontation, but fortunately, he was overconfident. The duel was short and his defeat came quickly.

I examined his lightsaber after the battle and found many strange markings, perhaps in the language of the ancient Sith. This is only the latest in a string of experiences that have prompted my desire to learn more about the Sith. I look forward to the day when I might do such research in the Jedi Archives. Though I suspect there will be limited material, I believe it is vital to learn more about our enemy if we hope to ever emerge from this terrible war.

CHAPTER FOUR: THE BATTLE OF BOTHAWUI

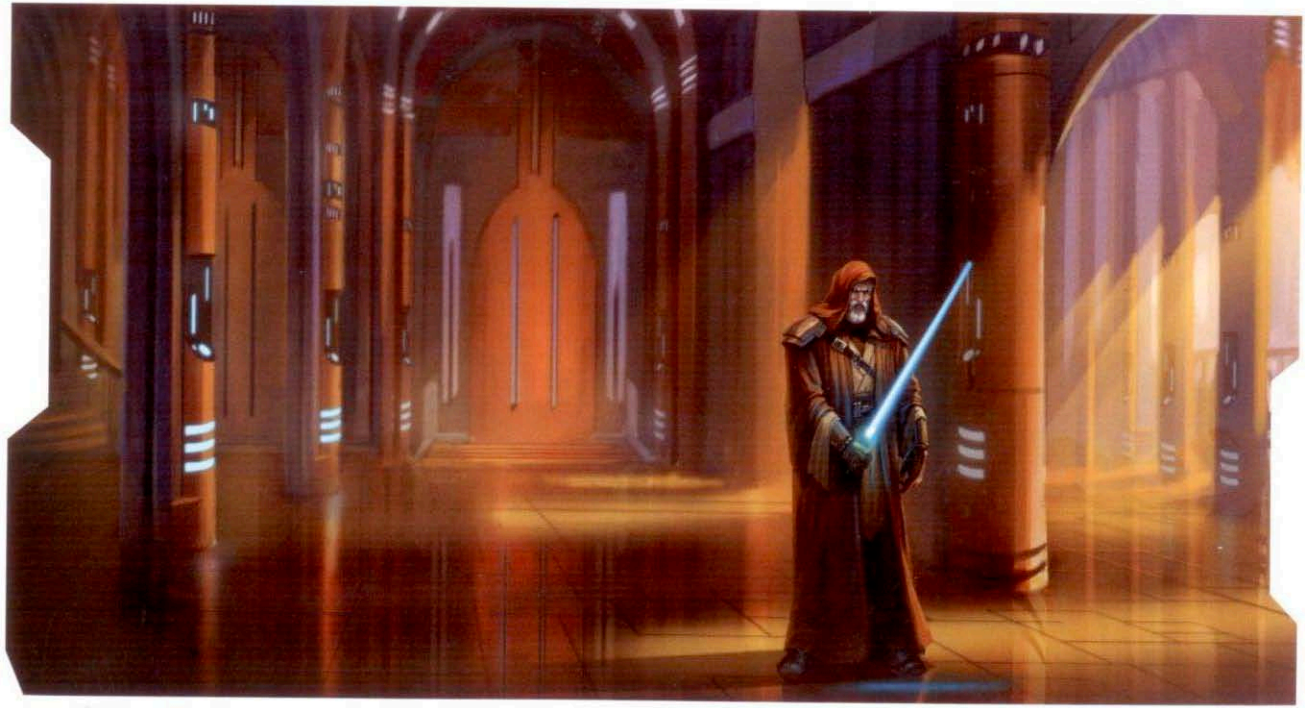
This is my first journal entry in several weeks, because we have been very busy since I was transferred to serve with the Republic fleet. The latest military assessment suggests that the Sith have taken control of nearly half of the Outer Rim. The fighting continues in the Minos Cluster, but we received dispatches last week indicating that the Seswenna sector had been lost. In the wake of that distressing news, however, we came up with a plan that I am pleased to report was a resounding success.

Seeking to capitalize on their momentum after the victory in the Seswenna sector, the Imperials charged into the Mid Rim hoping to take all of Bothan space in one fell swoop. Admiral Greik had predicted the move, however, and when the Imperial Battle Group advanced on Bothawui, they found themselves surrounded by the entire Republic fleet. We made short work of them with a minimum of casualties. It was a considerable risk gathering the entire fleet here to ambush our enemies, but it paid off, and we are hopeful that this may be a major turning point in the war.

My only concern as we depart is the likelihood that the Empire will seek revenge. To account for that possibility, we leave Bothawui under the protection of a new high-powered planetary shield, which our engineers believe can resist an Imperial attack. To protect the shield generators from surface assault, an

elite ground force commanded by Jedi Master Belth Allusis has volunteered to remain behind as well. I can think of no Jedi better suited for this role, but I must confess my trepidations nonetheless.

** I was still stationed in the Jedi Temple on Coruscant at this time, working with Master Dar'Nala. I remember the day clearly, because my meditation was disturbed by a thunderous sound that echoed across



Galactic City. I left the Temple and flew by taxi to the Senate, where I realized with a surprising giddiness that the great noise I heard was actually cheering. Not far from the spaceport, an enormous crowd had gathered to watch the reports of the victory in Bothan space on massive holo-screens.

Though I did not learn until later that Master Allusis had volunteered to stay and defend the planet, I recall that he was a prominent member of the Jedi Council during the first years of the war, and one I greatly admired. It is not hard for me to imagine him volunteering for such a

duty. He was always a champion of lost causes, and though few knew it, he had an amazing wit. He could always be counted on to bring a touch of humor to even the most difficult discussions in the Jedi Council chambers.

It is not without regret that I must confirm that our suspicions were correct—the Empire did return to Bothawui to avenge its recent defeat. The attack came soon after the fleet's departure and with all the brute force the Empire could muster. The planetary shield successfully repelled Imperial bombardment from orbit, but the enemy did not hesitate to mount a ground assault to disable the shield generator.

Fortunately, even though he had only been afforded a few days to make preparations, Master Allusis had established an impeccable defensive perimeter to ensure that the shield generator could only be taken at great cost to the Imperial forces, and this indeed proved to be the case.

It is estimated that an Imperial force more than fifty thousand strong was deployed to mount the offensive on Bothawui. The number of defenders was a mere fraction of the army they faced, with only four thousand Republic troops and several dozen Jedi on hand. Despite the odds,

we know that the shield's defenders never wavered. They trusted in Master Allusis's strategy and stood their ground even as Imperial forces advanced.

The defensive plan focused primarily on holding the higher ground around the shield generator and allowing Imperial forces to exhaust themselves attempting to break through. Though they still had little chance against such insurmountable odds, it's clear that the Force was with Master Allusis and his men. As wave after wave of Imperials crashed against them, the ratio was staggering; for every defender who bravely gave his or her life, no less than ten Imperials were sacrificed.

Our intelligence reports indicate that Moff Zelos was commanding the Imperial forces on Bothawui. We had never before heard his name, and I am confident we will not be hearing it again. Foolishly, Zelos responded to the

resistance by trying to overpower it. With each wave of his men that fell, he increased the number in the next assault, which only increased the death toll in comparable numbers.

The siege of the shield generators lasted for days, and though the defenders were undeniably outmaneuvering the enemy in every exchange, it was inevitable that their numbers would dwindle. One by one, Republic soldiers and Jedi Knights fell. In the end, Master Allusis's perimeter was finally broken. Master Allusis himself and the few dozen defenders who remained retreated to encircle the shield generator itself.

In a surprising gesture, Moff Zelos sent an envoy to Master Allusis with an offer: Surrender and they would be spared. Though their defenses were broken and any chance of victory lost, Allusis and his men refused. Their decision was not based on pride, nor was it an act of foolhardiness. They were guided by the Force; they had passed beyond the fear of death. As the Imperial forces closed in around them, they fought even more valiantly than they had before. Hundreds of Imperials fell against Allusis's courageous last stand. When the dust settled, the defenders' sacrifice was complete. None were left standing. It must have come as some shock to Moff Zelos, however, to learn that the number of Imperials who had survived was not sufficient to secure control of the shield generator. Zelos was forced to retreat.

It is my hope that Allusis's sacrifice will achieve far more than the fact that the planetary shield still protects Bothawui. Word of the battle even now spreads across the Republic, and should our comrades have been encouraged by our victory in Bothawui's orbit, let their spirits be rallied exponentially more by the story of Allusis's last stand.

*** May the Force grant such courage to us all.*

It's almost hard to believe that I have finally returned to Coruscant after so many years. I wish my homecoming was due to the conclusion of the war, but such is not the case. The cause for my visit is that the Jedi Council has finally agreed to grant me time in the Archives to search for more historical information about the Sith. I first submitted the petition while fighting in the Minos Cluster, but other researchers had spent time in such an effort, and I believe the Council thought my time would be better spent elsewhere. With this opportunity, however, I am confident I can prove the value of the endeavor. After almost a decade of war, it's frightening to consider how little we know about the enemy, and though many facts have become common knowledge during the war, even my first few forays into the records reveal there is more to be learned. I have begun drafting a report for the Jedi Council that I will include here.

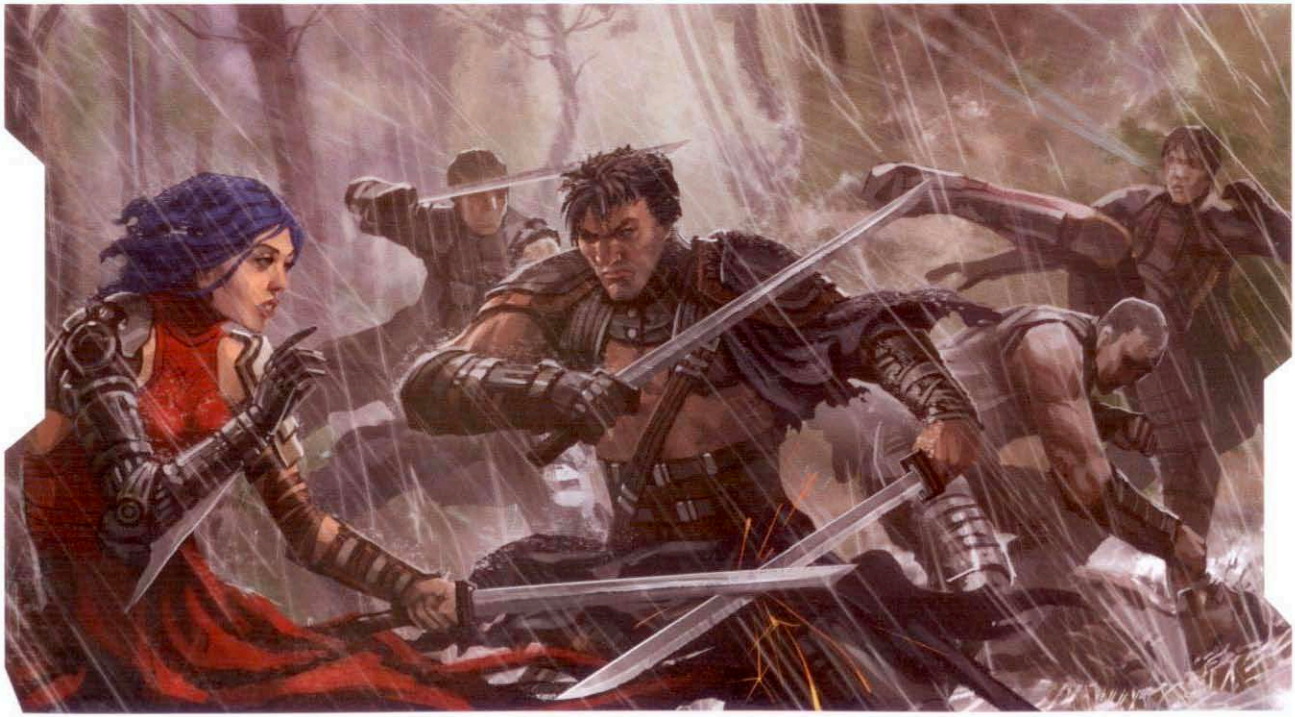
SITH ORIGINS
JEDI ARCHIVES #1351560190

Of first and perhaps greatest relevance in our effort to understand the enemy is for us to examine the very origins of the Sith. There is a great deal of confusion around the difference between the Sith we fight today and the original Sith species. To clarify, the original Sith were a species of red-skinned humanoids who originated on the planet Korriban and became dominant on that world even before our predecessors gathered on Tython. The Sith had an innate propensity for the Force, but their abilities were crude and unrefined. Even at its most advanced state, Sith society was relatively primitive. As I had suspected, it was actually due to contact with former members of our Order that the foundation was

established for the Sith Empire we find ourselves at war with in modern times.

As we all might recall from our studies as Padawans, the first splintering of the Jedi Order began not long after the founding of the Republic. A Jedi Knight named Xendor began questioning the teachings of the Masters. Xendor left the Order, insisting that emotion was superior to meditation for channeling the Force. Xendor and his followers became known as the Legions of Lettow, and as they grew in power from their dark side experiments, they were driven to challenge the Order to prove the supremacy of their beliefs. A war later known as the Great Schism began between the Legions of Lettow and the Jedi Order. The Jedi were victorious, and this first faction of Dark Jedi was annihilated.

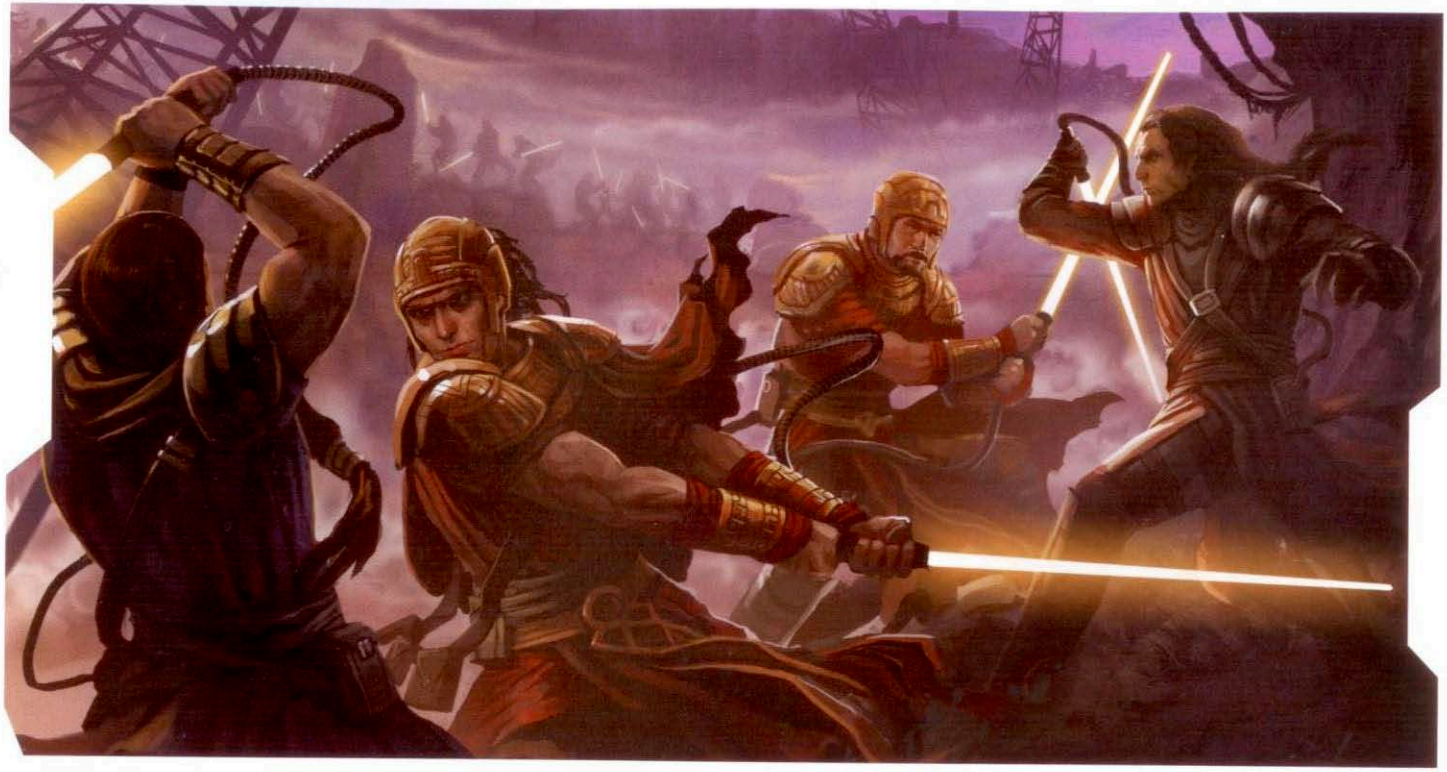
It was inevitable, however, and perhaps always will be, that some among the Jedi would again succumb to the temptations of power. Though there were likely many such examples, it was not



until seventeen thousand years later that another major conflict is recorded in the Archives. The war known as the Second Great Schism occurred slightly more than three thousand years ago.

The seeds of the conflict were sown when several Jedi scholars discovered ways of using the Force to manipulate life itself. They began by experimenting on other life forms, creating new species and accelerating the evolution of others, but eventually these Jedi began experimenting on their own bodies. They sought ways of making themselves stronger; they even hoped to discover the secret of immortality.

Others in the Order expressed concerns about the dangers of such powers, but it was too late. The rogue Jedi scholars refused to abandon their course of study, and they were exiled from the Order. Seeking to prove their new powers, however, the exiled



Jedi attacked and started a war that lasted a century and became known as the Hundred Year Darkness. Despite the powers the Dark Jedi had unlocked, they were slowly weakened by the unity and determination of the Order, and ultimately defeated in the Battle of Corbos. There were, however, a few Dark Jedi who survived the conflict. They fled from Republic space and wound up landing on the remote world of Korriban.

The native Sith on Korriban were in awe of the visitors who came to their planet with advanced technologies and knowledge of the Force. The Sith bowed down to the Dark Jedi as gods, and the Dark Jedi took full advantage of their exalted status. They enslaved the Sith and began building a new civilization. Such was the birth of the Sith Empire we face today.

** It should be noted here that all Padawans were taught about the ancient schisms within the Order. But such lessons were taught with the focus on the dangers of the dark side, the underlying philosophical beliefs that led Jedi of previous generations to fall. In contrast, Gnost-Dural's report, of which I only include a summary here, analyzed these events from a historical perspective, explaining how, in truth, the roots of the Sith Empire can be traced back to the Jedi Order.

So it was that, during the next several centuries, the Sith Empire evolved and grew in isolation. Many of the original Dark Jedi interbred with the native Sith, resulting in a mixed society of humans, pure Sith, and many variations of hybrids. For many years, humans commanded the highest respect in Sith society, but

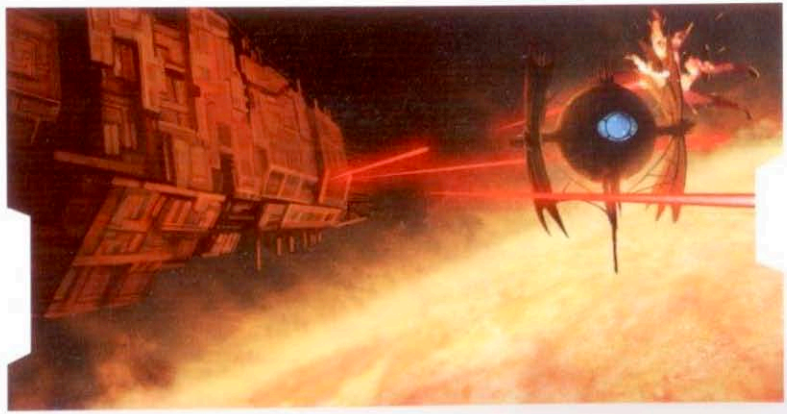
the social structure appears to have been inverted in more recent times, giving greater status to those of the purest Sith bloodlines. The likely explanation for this is that pure Sith tend to be more powerful in the Force. The human Dark Jedi who originally arrived on Korriban may have had more knowledge of the dark side of the Force, but the native Sith had a greater innate propensity for it. Throughout the centuries, an individual's bloodline became a significant factor in determining his or her Force potential. The contrast between these two evolutionary strains appears to have intensified on the eve of the Hyperspace War during the power struggle between Sith Lords Ludo Kressh and Naga Sadow.

We might deduce from historical images of the two that Ludo Kressh had more native Sith blood, while Naga Sadow was clearly a more-human hybrid. Regardless of their genealogy, however, the conflict between them had great effect on the course of Sith history. Though Sith civilization had grown and expanded to many other worlds, there seem to have been few, if any, records among their people of the Jedi or the Republic. Thus, when two Republic explorers landed on Korriban in the midst of a duel between Naga Sadow and Ludo Kressh, the reaction was chaotic. Naga Sadow seized the opportunity, insisting the explorers were the harbingers of an impending attack. He called for a preemptive strike, and despite opposition from Ludo Kressh, the Sith rallied to Naga Sadow's leadership.

The Sith fleet attacked the Republic in multiple star systems, including a massive assault against Coruscant. Caught by surprise, Republic and Jedi defenders were at a significant disadvantage, and as the battle raged on, it appeared as though there was no hope.

The Sith forces' success was largely due to Naga Sadow's powerful leadership. The Sith Lord mentally coordinated the offensive on all fronts from a meditation sphere over the giant star Primus Goluud. Fortunately, Naga Sadow was betrayed and his location was revealed. The Republic attacked the Sith meditation sphere, breaking Naga Sadow's control and robbing the aggressors of their edge.

Naga Sadow and his forces fled back to Korriban, where his political rival, Ludo Kressh, was waiting. The two Sith factions fought so viciously that they were completely defenseless when the Republic tracked them down. Having lost so much in the



war, Republic and Jedi forces attacked the Sith homeworld with extreme prejudice, destroying all remnants of the Sith civilization.

There are many conflicting theories of what happened next, but the records from Jedi Council reports centuries later suggest that Naga Sadow escaped to Yavin 4, where he is believed to be entombed to the present day.

This completes the summary report from my research in the Archives, and what I intend to submit to the Jedi Council. Cross-referencing the information from the Archives with the limited intelligence we have gathered so far in the war raises many questions. Clearly many Sith survived the Hyperspace War. As impossible as it may sound, we also have evidence to suggest that the leader of the Sith, the mysterious Emperor, was alive at the time of the Hyperspace War. Thus, even though it may contradict the findings of our predecessors, we must at least consider the possibility that the Emperor is none other than Naga Sadow himself. This is the recommendation I will be making to the Council when I present this report.

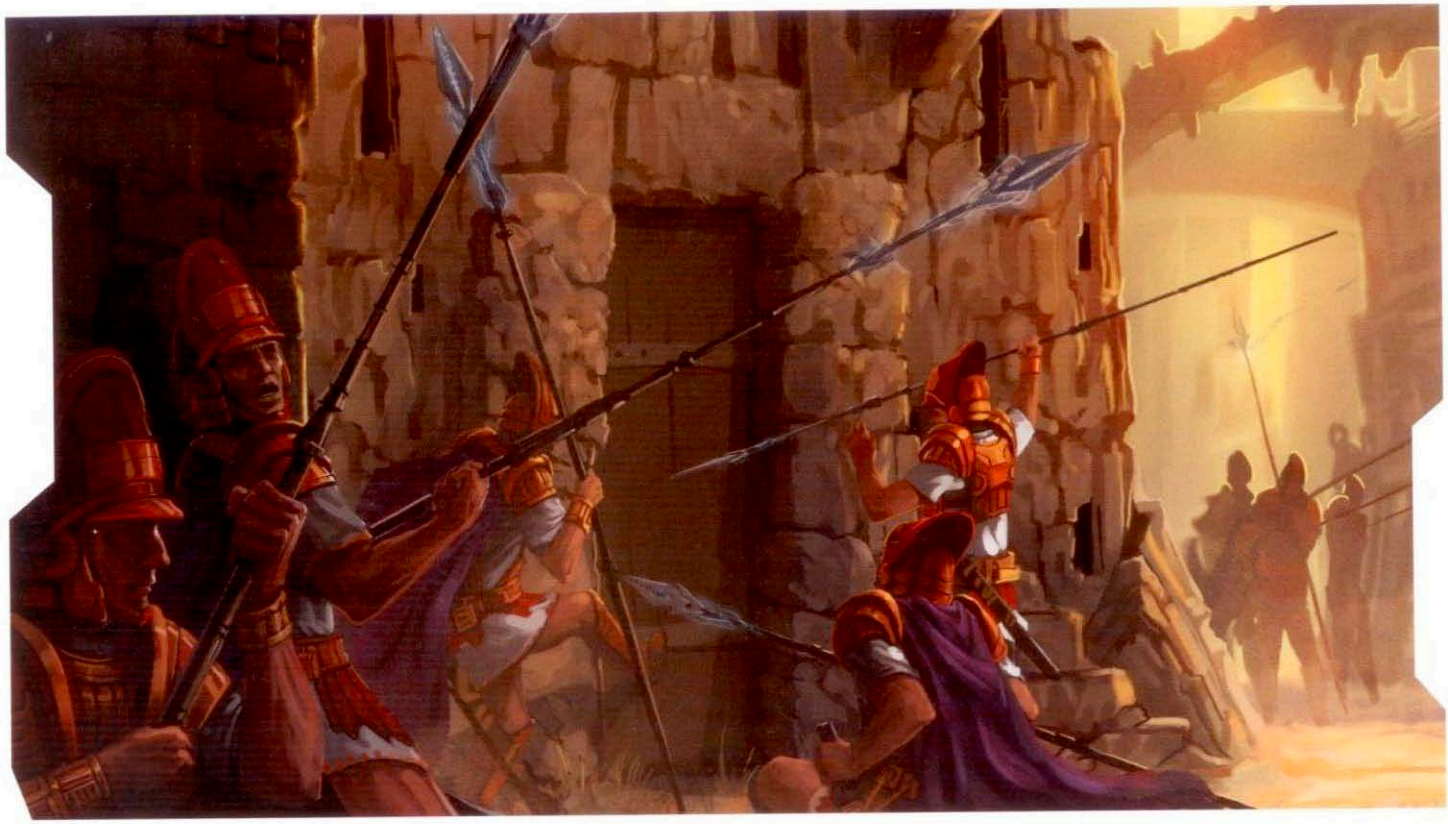
*** I must applaud Gnost-Dural for his open-minded approach and for the fact that he was the first among us to start thinking along these lines. In truth, the Jedi Council up until this time had dismissed the evidence that the Sith Emperor could have survived so many centuries. Though his identity may remain a mystery, his longevity is now something we have all come to believe as true.*

Revisiting this report now, I am also reminded of the many mysteries surrounding the Sith Temples on Yavin 4. The Order has long considered Yavin 4 to be an extremely dangerous planet where the dark side is strong, and a place Jedi should avoid at all costs. The evidence of those who have visited Yavin 4 in the past supports this. The Dark Jedi Exar Kun visited the planet, and though he was already long past redemption by the time he visited Yavin 4, evidence suggests that his visit

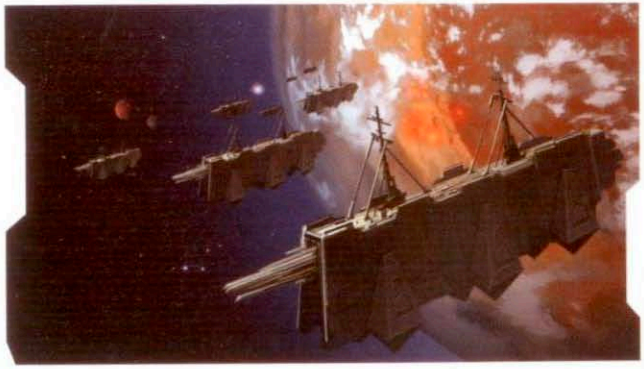
there deepened his connection with the dark side of the Force.

Of course, it is from those same sources that we learned that Naga Sadow was entombed on the planet, so perhaps there are far more questions than answers. Another Jedi Master visited Yavin 4 even more recently. The revered Jedi Master Barel Ovair claimed to have been assaulted there by Naga Sadow's dark spirit, and that his Padawan was killed in the confrontation. When his Padawan mysteriously reappeared on Coruscant years later and attacked his former master, the Council took it on faith that the young Padawan had been corrupted there and came back for revenge.

Master Gnost-Dural theorizes that Master Ovair may have been one of the infamous yet still unproven Sith Infiltrators alleged to have been spying on the Jedi Order. Whether that is true or not, clearly there are a great many mysteries surrounding Yavin 4 that remain unsolved.



In the last several months, I have scrutinized every record in the Archives relating to the Hyperspace War in an effort to find any clues that had previously been overlooked. All that is certain is that at the end of the war, the Republic did indeed send troops to scour Korriban's surface and ensure the Sith were entirely vanquished.



Though I now have considerable doubt that the Emperor is the same person as the ancient Sith Lord Naga Sadow, I cannot prove otherwise. Nonetheless, I must make the observation that despite historical records indicating that Ludo Kressh was killed in a suicide attack on his ship, his fate was never truly verified, and thus, there is also the possibility that he found a way to survive all these years as the Emperor. Nothing can be certain of the Emperor's identity. Whoever the Emperor may be, he left at the end of the Hyperspace War with what certainly must have been at least a few hundred other Sith as well as tens of thousands of slaves and fled into deep space. How long they may have wandered in the unknown regions of space is unknown. Though we have not learned its location, the Republic Strategic Information Service has intercepted enough communications to confirm that the Imperial capital is now on a world known as Dromund Kaas.

We have no record of this planet in the Archives, but I presume that the Sith who fled from Korriban at the end of the Hyperspace War settled there and began rebuilding their Empire. Of course, it is also possible that Dromund Kaas was simply an unknown planet within the Empire to which the survivors relocated. Learning more about this planet is a high priority, though learning more about the Emperor himself would be even more satisfying.

CHAPTER SIX: THE MYSTERY OF THE SITH EMPEROR

We have successfully completed a vital mission. I have kept all reference to it out of this journal because of its highly confidential nature, but I can now safely relay the details.

In a string of recent confrontations with the Empire, dozens of Republic warships had gone missing, leaving evidence that they fled after the personnel on board were overcome by a profound and mysterious terror. We were at a loss to explain this disturbing pattern until SIS listening posts in the Outer Rim pieced together coded messages referring to a group of Sith Lords known as the Dread Masters. It seems the Dread Masters were using a previously unheard of form of "Battle Meditation" to project this terror at our ships. To avoid any chance of the Dread Masters being compromised, they kept in constant motion on an Imperial dreadnought that roamed the galaxy.

Working with an elite Republic Special Forces team, Jedi Knight Jaric Kaedan managed to infiltrate the dreadnought and capture the Dread Masters. Though they have been unresponsive to our attempts at interrogation, their appearance alone tells us a great deal, as they are clearly centuries old. This should put to rest any lingering doubts about whether the Emperor may have achieved a similar longevity.

As thrilling as the success of the mission may be, Jaric found something else on the dreadnought that may prove to be just as valuable. The ship contained a vast database of Imperial knowledge which Jaric wisely downloaded before scuttling the vessel to cover his tracks. Decrypting the data will undoubtedly be difficult, but I have volunteered to work with SIS to help speed the process, and I anticipate we will learn a great deal more about the Sith Empire should our efforts prove successful.

***By destroying the dreadnought and spreading word that the Dread Masters had been killed, the Council hoped to prevent the Emperor from making any attempt to locate them. The truth was, however, that the Council believed the Dread Masters were far too valuable to dispose of. The ancient prison on Belsavis was the only place with safety measures strong enough to ensure the Dread Masters could not escape, and it is there they remain to this day. Let us hope that they remain contained there for all eternity.*

After several months of work, we have completed the decryption of the database from the Imperial dreadnought and discovered a treasure trove of historical information regarding the Empire, and perhaps even more significantly, the Emperor himself. I am preparing a report on my findings for the Jedi Council and will include a summary of it here.

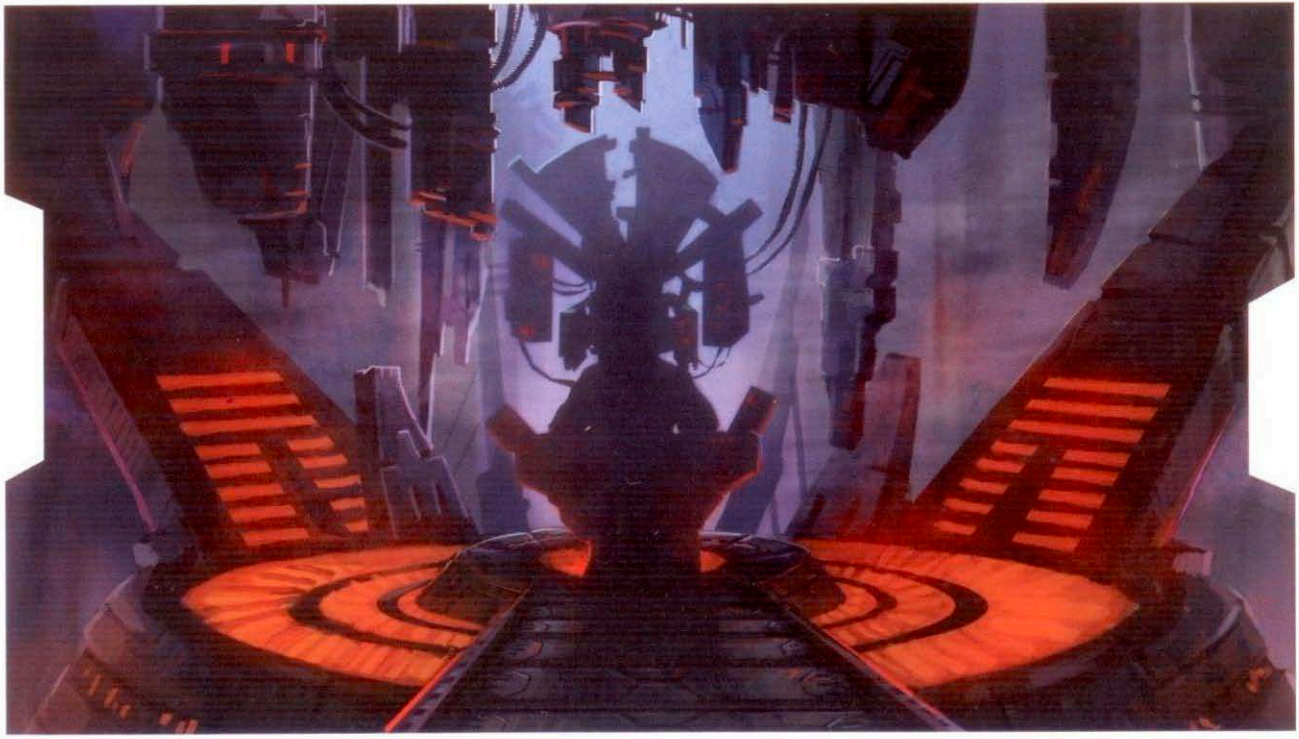
REPORT TO THE JEDI COUNCIL ON FINDINGS FROM IMPERIAL DATABASE X-4367

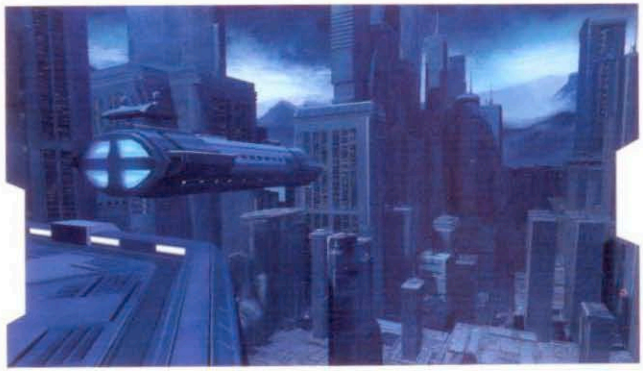
Cataloging the information we've decrypted from the Imperial database and cross-referencing it with source materials from the Archives has not been easy, but it has helped me confirm many of

our suspicions and I believe it will be helpful to now have all this information compiled in one place. I've focused first and foremost on distilling details relating to the Sith Emperor, and I present them to the Council now in this report.

I was stunned to discover that the original identity of the Emperor is unknown to his subjects. To the citizens of the Empire, the Emperor's life before his ascendancy is not worth contemplating. There is simply no record of it. It is clear, however, based on reference to the Sith Lords of the past, that he is not Naga Sadow, nor is he Ludo Kressh. He appears to have been another prominent and powerful Sith Lord who survived the Hyperspace War.

During that conflict, he and his immediate subjects were on a world known as Nathema. There is no record of this planet in the Jedi Archives, but there is evidence in the Imperial database that the name was changed at some point during the last several centuries.





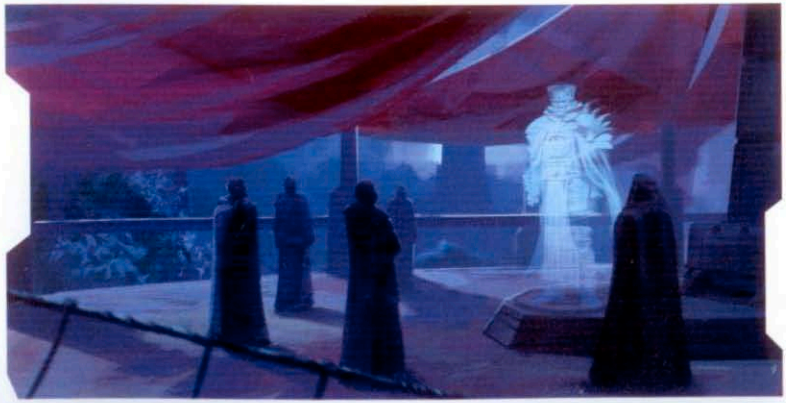
In the days after Naga Sadow abandoned the Sith and fled to Yavin 4, it seems the Emperor returned to Korriban and recruited the majority of the remaining Sith Lords and brought them back to Nathema. This would, in fact, explain why Republic and Jedi efforts to eliminate the remnants of Sith civilization on Korriban met with so little resistance.

How long the Sith survivors spent on Nathema, what happened there, and why they left are not indicated in the records we recovered. All that we can say for sure is that not long after retreating to Nathema, the Emperor and the remaining Sith boarded their ships and vanished into deep space, taking great care to ensure the Republic would not be able to trace their trajectory. Imperial records indicate that the Emperor's small fleet indeed stayed on the move in obscure regions of unknown space for decades before rediscovering Dromund Kaas.

This planet was apparently a remote part of the Sith Empire centuries earlier but had been abandoned and forgotten. The Emperor decided that Dromund Kaas would be the heart of the new Empire. After landing on the new homeworld, the Emperor addressed his subjects, exhorting them to work hard to rebuild their civilization. He promised them that their descendants would someday return and destroy the Republic. At this point the Emperor appeared often in public but that would apparently change drastically in coming centuries.

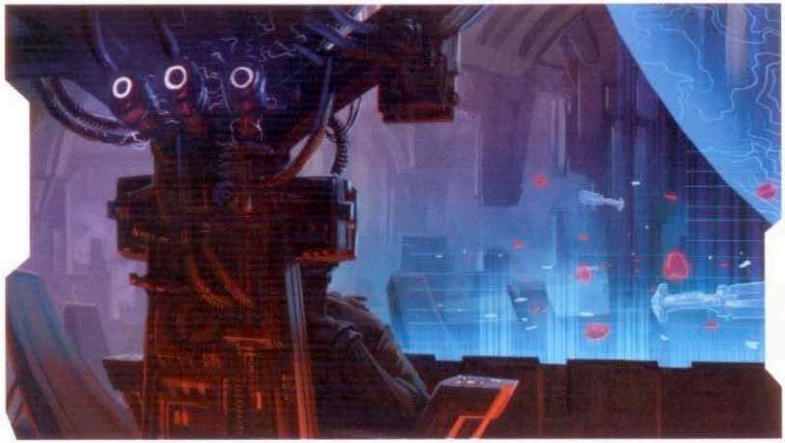
In the years that followed the rediscovery of Dromund Kaas, the exiles reconstructed their infrastructure at a remarkable rate. The cooperation of Imperial society during this period was unprecedented, and seems to have little explanation beyond the fact that the people were simply moved by the Emperor's will. As the population grew and the new civilization flourished, a new Imperial military was founded in which every Imperial citizen would serve. It seems the people willingly surrendered all autonomy and quickly saw the benefits of such unity.

Though a strict ranking system was quickly established within the Imperial military, the military leaders' focus appears to have been only administrative in those early years. The Emperor appointed twelve Sith Lords to a Dark Council that served as the highest governing body. The Emperor himself slowly withdrew from the public eye, only communicating with the Dark Council.



Thus the centuries passed, and what began as a small refugee camp on Dromund Kaas grew into a thriving metropolis centered on the efficient functioning of an impeccable military-industrial system. Even in the first few centuries, however, the Empire prepared to return and seek vengeance against the Republic.

**Though we do not know their identities, we do know that twelve Sith Lords still preside on the Dark Council to this day. Though they still claim to have direct instructions from the Emperor himself, we have intercepted communications in which Imperial military commanders have expressed some doubt as to whether that is truly the case.



My report to the Jedi Council on the key findings relating to the rebuilding of the Sith Empire was well received, and I am humbled to acknowledge that they have conferred upon me the title of Jedi Master. Though I question if I am truly worthy of such an honor, if having such a title helps me to better serve the Order and the Republic, I am happy to accept it.

In truth, my focus remains on further delving into the history of the Sith and the implications of what I might discover. The course of Imperial history from the time of its beginnings on Dromund Kaas to the eve of the war seems to be straightforward, but I have been considering the implications of this as it relates to events that transpired here in Republic space during the same period.

In the centuries that the Empire grew in isolation, several fallen Jedi referred to themselves as Sith Lords. Clearly, they lacked any blood relations with the Sith, but their proficiency in the dark side often grew from their study of Sith teachings, and thus the title was not entirely inappropriate.

One such example can be found in Exar Kun. Though initially a young Jedi of promising potential, his obsession

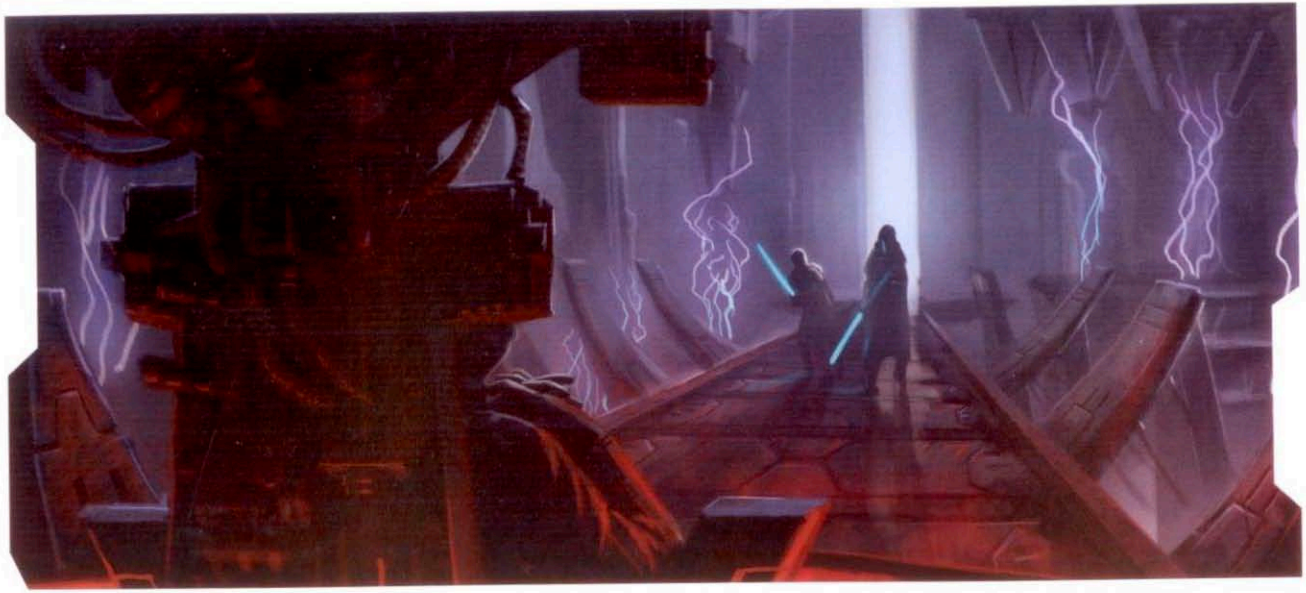
with knowledge drove him to far greater lengths than what is appropriate for a Jedi scholar. Though none can say precisely when Exar Kun fell to the dark side, his own accounts indicate that his passion for learning the Sith's secrets began when he encountered the spirit of the fallen Jedi, Freedon Nadd, on Onderon.

Exar Kun's passion then led him to the Sith mausoleums on Korriban and the Dark Temples of Yavin 4. He claimed afterward to have received a blessing directly from the spirit of the Sith Lord Naga Sadow. Though I doubted this at one point, believing that Naga Sadow may have lived on in the person of the Sith Emperor, I now believe

Exar Kun's account to have been highly possible. If it is the case, however, that the spirit of Naga Sadow chose Exar Kun as his spiritual successor, what does this say about that ancient Sith Lord's regard for the Emperor, who was even then rebuilding the Empire? Did the spirit of Naga Sadow know of the Emperor's existence? Is it possible that there was some conflict between the two while Naga Sadow yet lived? Though I must confess the temptation to visit Yavin 4 myself to try to answer these questions, I will not fall into that trap. Few Jedi have ever visited Yavin 4, and among those, almost every single one has fallen to the dark side. There are limits to the value of even the most incredible knowledge, and as a Jedi Master, I must content myself with trusting in the guidance of the Force to give us answers to these questions in due time.

Cross-referencing events in Republic history with the information decrypted from the Imperial database has yielded a profound revelation. I can now report with a high degree of confidence that the start of the Jedi Civil War was not entirely unrelated to the existence of the exiled Sith Empire. What we have long believed to be the case regarding the Jedi Civil War is that the Jedi Knights Revan and Malak fell to the dark side as the result of their participation in the Mandalorian Wars and the ruthless tactics they adopted to defeat the Mandalorians. While those events must have influenced the two Jedi to a significant degree, it wasn't until after Revan and Malak pursued the Mandalorians into deep space that they were considered to have become Sith Lords.

Looking at this period in the annals of Imperial history, I have discovered records that two warriors from off-world were known to have visited the Emperor on Dromund Kaas during this time. The Imperial records suggest that the Emperor dispatched the pair on a secret mission of a nature that only he was aware. The only insight that he



shared with the Dark Council of that time was that the new development might allow them to accelerate plans to attack the Republic. There can be little doubt that these two warriors were none other than Revan and Malak.

It is my belief that the two Jedi must have somehow discovered Dromund Kaas while they were out in deep space and that the Emperor orchestrated events to bring them into his presence where he completed their corruption. I further believe that he sent them back to Republic space to find the Star Forge on his own behalf. Evidence supports this: When Revan and Malak returned as Sith Lords, they cooperated completely in their search for the Rakatan Star Maps. How did they learn of the existence of the Star Forge? The Jedi of the time had no records of the Rakata, so it seems likely that the Emperor had given them this information. What the Emperor apparently did not foresee was that the power would lure them to betray his orders and betray each other, and, in the process, the Star Forge would be destroyed.

** Master Gnost-Dural's discovery of these correlated events was indeed a revelation, and though some questioned his theory when he first presented it, further evidence surfaced to support it. When Malak betrayed Revan and left him for dead, the Council erased Revan's memory and retrained him as a Jedi. After he redeemed himself and defeated Malak, though, Revan disappeared.

According to records Revan left in the weeks before his final disappearance, he was plagued by nightmares, visions, and foggy memories of some terrible darkness lurking in the depths of space. He left to search for this darkness, which we can now safely assume was the Sith Emperor himself.

Of course, this knowledge only raises more questions, though: Did Revan find the Emperor and confront him? If so, what happened? We may never know.

Though the Emperor's attempt to acquire the Star Forge backfired, there's nothing in the Imperial database to suggest this caused any concern. The Imperial war machine

marched forward until two and a half centuries later, when records indicate a definitive transformation in the political atmosphere.

The orders from the Dark Council shifted the entire society's focus from military production to military preparation. Though I believe the Emperor had been

defining strategy for centuries, the time had come for the Imperial Moffs and Sith Warlords who would be leading the attack to plan their roles. Because plans were limited to what we now regard as the first phase of the Imperial campaign, it's clear that they expected to win the war quickly.

In the final few years before the war began, naval exercises were conducted daily, and Imperial troops began drilling for specific tasks. Finally, on the eve of the attack, Imperial battle cruisers moved into position at key locations just outside of Republic space, there to await the hour when they would begin what has become the worst war in the Republic's history.

After studying all the material from the Imperial database during the last several months, I am astounded at the extent of the Empire's dedication to the cause of our destruction. My analysis suggests that the Emperor's strategy was impeccable, and it would seem that the Republic has only survived the war these last several years through the protection and guidance of the Force.

CHAPTER SEVEN: THE BATTLE OF ALDERAAN

It is in the midst of an extreme crisis that I file this entry into my journal. The Sith Empire has just won its greatest victory since the start of the war by taking one of the Core Worlds—and not just any of the Core Worlds but specifically the noble world of Alderaan.

Though we have no evidence as such, I am confident the Empire targeted this world specifically because of its sentimental value within Republic social circles and because it would be a devastating blow to our morale. Alderaan has always been considered one of the most beautiful worlds in the Republic, and many of our most prominent

leaders call the planet home. To lose it would be difficult for many to endure.

I am currently on board a Republic battle cruiser, preparing to rush to aid in Alderaan's defense. If the reports we are hearing are true, however, it may be too late. As we understand it, Alderaan's orbital defenses have been completely obliterated, and the Imperial fleet has taken a defensive position in the upper atmosphere. Imperial ground forces have allegedly destroyed the royal palace and taken the royal family hostage. We believe they are now marching on Organa Castle. There were Jedi and at

least one squad of Republic Special Forces on the planet, but we have had no contact with them since the attack began. If all these reports are true, I fear we are far too late to make a difference and that Alderaan is already lost.

**As an eyewitness, it falls on me again to contribute additional detail to Master Gnost-Dural's account. I had traveled to Alderaan to investigate allegations that one of the noble houses was harboring Imperial spies, but when the attack began my only thought was to protect the Queen. By the time I arrived at the palace, though, it was in ruins. Like Master Gnost-Dural, I was told that the battle was over and that Alderaan was already lost.

As I attempted to establish communications with the Jedi Council, however, I learned that a Republic Special Forces squad was preparing a counterattack in the mountains. The military had been using Alderaan as a stopover point for soldiers returning to the Core Worlds from the Outer Rim—a place where many injured soldiers were given a chance to recuperate. Somehow, in the midst of the Imperial attack, these soldiers had formed a small resistance force under the command of a respected trooper with whom I was familiar—Captain Jace Malcom. Captain Malcom's squad had decided to ambush the Imperial army as it marched toward Organa Castle. It was a battle they could not win, and if I had arrived before they launched the attack I would have counseled them to hold back. In retrospect, though, it was the courage and selflessness of those men that changed everything that day. Despite the

overwhelming odds against them, Captain Malcom and his men had taken out more than three times their own number on the Imperial side when I arrived.

I entered the battlefield and was immediately disheartened to realize that the Sith Lord Darth Malgus was leading the enemy forces. After our last confrontation over Korriban, I had dreaded the possibility of another confrontation with Malgus, and my life was nearly forfeit again on this occasion. It was only the determination and

strength of Captain Malcom that prevented it from happening. Together though, we managed to defeat Darth Malgus and left him for dead, buried beneath a mountain of rubble.

In the aftermath of that fight, I counted myself lucky to be alive—and I was stunned to find that not only had we survived, but that we had won the day.

The Force was truly with us this day, for even as we dropped out of hyperspace into Alderaan's orbit, we witnessed an inspirational display. From the planet's surface, a series of Republic flares were being launched into the air. The Imperial ground forces were being driven back.

The Imperial fleet, though still in an advantageous position, must have realized that the tide of the battle on the ground had turned and they no longer had anything to defend. Their battle cruisers retreated from the system not long after our arrival.

What the Empire intended as a crushing blow to our morale has turned out to be the greatest inspiration of the war. I hope the victory here may rally Republic forces across the galaxy and that we will remember this as the day the war truly turned in our favor.

***For some time, our forces did rally after the Battle of Alderaan, but unfortunately this was not the beginning of the final chapter of the war. I should also point out that, unbeknownst to us, two key Imperial figures survived the battle that day. Though I was convinced that he was finished,*

Darth Malgus reappeared several years later, and that fact is proof that somehow, despite critical wounds, he pulled himself from the rubble and survived.

Another person who would catch our attention later was the Mandalorian bounty hunter Shae Vizla. She was known to have participated in the Battle of Alderaan, and perhaps indeed she was the one who helped Malgus escape. We cannot know for sure, but we can be certain she survived. Only a few years later, she

participated in a bold attack on a Republic political convoy in which her brother was killed by Jedi Master Aurei Eadon. To avenge her brother, she later challenged Master Aurei to a duel, but was refused. I wish I could say that was the last we saw of her but, like Malgus, she would return again as well.

In the months since the Battle of Alderaan, the Republic has won a string of victories in the war. Though we may be far from putting the Empire on the defensive, we have been successful in liberating several systems in the Mid Rim, and Republic forces have even regained a foothold in the Minos Cluster. Nonetheless, I have been feeling a general sense of uneasiness shared by members of the Jedi Council. Today I have heard rumors that a new "Mandalore"—a warrior who has proven himself so formidable as to earn the respect and allegiance of all those who follow the Mandalorian ways—has been raising an army on Geonosis. My instincts tell me this cannot be a coincidence, and I have successfully convinced the Council to send me to investigate.

So far in the war, we have been fortunate in that the Mandalorians scattered around the galaxy have preferred to remain independent. Though we have seen evidence that Imperial diplomats have made repeated attempts to

recruit this ragtag assortment of mercenaries and bounty hunters, they have thus far refused all offers that would permanently commit them to an alliance.

Primarily, this has been due to the fact that the Mandalorians only join together for battle when they are called to do so by a so-called Mandalore. It is my understanding that there has been no Mandalore in recent decades, thus to hear that one has emerged now should cause significant concern. Hopefully, I will learn more on Geonosis.

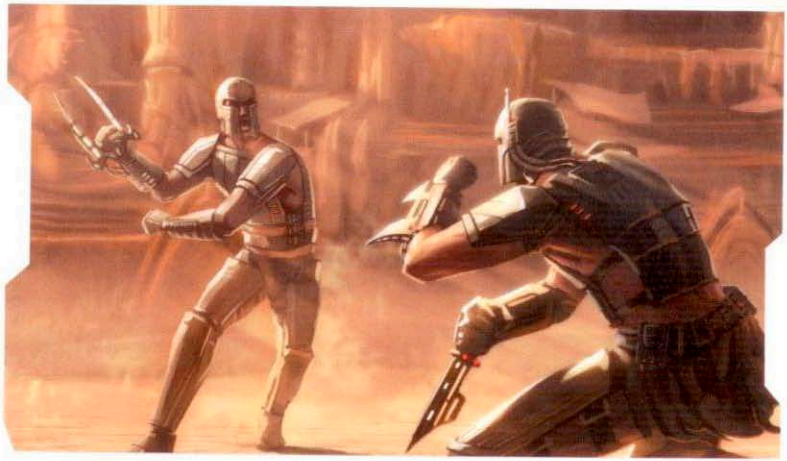
**Yet another instance when Master Gnost-Dural's instincts guided him to start an investigation that might not have prevented what was to come, but at least gave the Jedi Council fair warning.

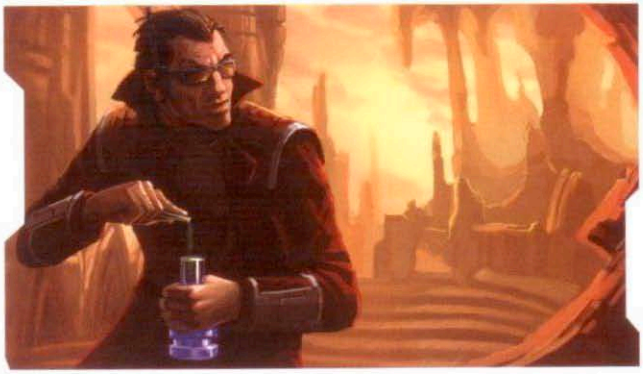
At this time, I was unaware of Master Gnost-Dural's suspicions. I was in a remote part of the Outer Rim, where we were escorting a small fleet of prototype warships on what should have been a secret route. How the operation was compromised I still do not know, but the Imperials had learned of our efforts and planned a ferocious surprise attack over the ice world of Hoth. Thanks to the power of the prototype warships, more of us survived that battle than should have, but not without tremendous cost. We were forced to abandon the prototype technology we had been assigned to protect. Even now, the surface of Hoth is littered with the wreckage of those ambitious warships.

In subsequent years, the cost of the losses on Hoth came to bear when Republic fleets were faced with the entrance of new variables into the war that dramatically shifted the balance back in the Empire's favor.

In the year since I began my investigation, several skirmishes have occurred between the Republic and new Mandalorian army, so it's become unnecessary for me to prove the army's existence. My work on Geonosis has uncovered details, however, that suggest that the Empire spent years manipulating events to create the new Mandalore and to ensure his allegiance. The operation was conducted by Imperial Intelligence, and the cunning of the agents who worked on Geonosis is only matched by their ability to cover their tracks. It has been nearly impossible to find even a shred of evidence for my suspicions, but I will relay what I believe nonetheless.

Three years ago, in the wake of their defeat in the Battle of Alderaan, I believe Imperial strategists devised a plan to finally bring the Mandalorians into the war. The arenas here on Geonosis have long been a haven for Mandalorians seeking individual glory in battle. Thus did Imperial Intelligence send some of its best agents here for a long-term operation. These Imperial Agents searched the arenas until they found the perfect candidate for their planned operation.





The young gladiator they chose had already proven himself to be a promising combatant in the arenas, but his ambition far outstripped his abilities. They offered him a simple deal: In exchange for his promised allegiance to the Empire, they would assist in his rise to glory in the arena and then they would make him a Mandalore. What young gladiator could refuse such an offer? Thus did this promising young warrior become the most successful gladiator to fight on Geonosis in more than a century. He single-handedly fought and defeated teams of opponents and many of the arena's most dangerous beasts, and with each victory his infamy grew.

Other, far more seasoned Mandalorian warriors challenged the upstart, but he emerged from every fight unscathed. His success was so great that he soon attracted the attention of the Geonosian authorities, and allegations were made that his fights were fixed. Though it was never proven, there are more than a few arena fans who say with little doubt that the young gladiator's opponents were bought off or drugged before they entered the ring. I have little doubt this was the work of Imperial Intelligence, but there is no evidence to prove it whatsoever.

In a similarly suspicious fashion, whispers in the kennels became talk in the cantinas and then became the chanting of the crowds, calling the new champion "Mandalore." It was the first time anyone had used that title in many

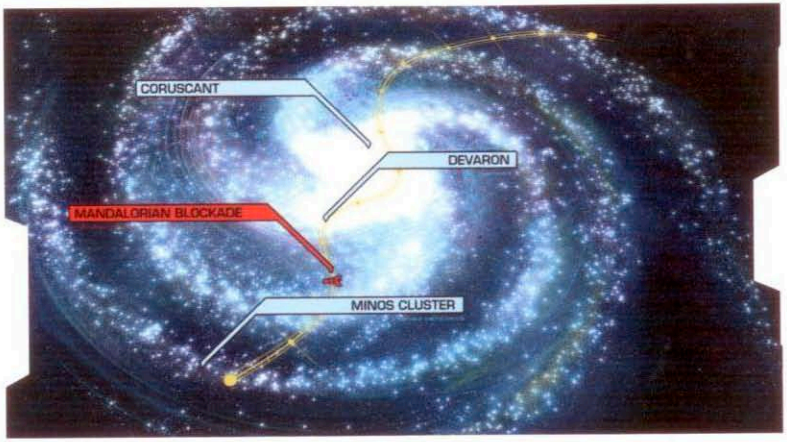
years, but it stuck nonetheless. The odds of the champion losing a fight eventually became so slim that the Geonosians could no longer make any credits. Just before he would have been forced into retirement, the young Mandalore left of his own accord, and he made it known that he was looking for a new challenge—one that would

require an army. He called for Mandalorians around the galaxy to come forward and join him in testing themselves as a community.

Though I still find it hard to believe that this ancient tradition still carries such influence, it is clearly the case, because Mandalorians have flocked to him by the

hundreds and thousands. The new Mandalore and his followers departed from Geonosis many months ago, so there is no way of knowing precisely how many have joined his cause.

Regardless, the Mandalorians undoubtedly represent a new variable in a war that has already been characterized by extreme volatility. Ever seeking greater challenges, the Mandalorians always enjoy the opportunity to battle the Jedi Order. Though there have only been a few clashes between us at this point, it is safe to assume that they will seek a way to goad us into a showdown, and we must be prepared.



HYDIAN WAY TRADE ROUTE

My predictions concerning the Mandalorians proved to be accurate. Though we had many battles with Mandalorian forces in the few years since they became allied with the Empire, there has been nothing of this magnitude. The Mandalorians have gathered together to form a small armada and have set up a blockade of the Hydian Way trade route.

The Hydian Way blockade has effectively cut the lifeline of the Republic. Vital resources cannot be transported from the Outer Rim to the Core Worlds, and military supplies cannot be sent to help defend our installations in the Outer Rim. Three years ago, the Republic fleet might have made easy work of this Mandalorian armada, but not after its catastrophic losses in the Battle of Hoth. Indeed, it is my belief that the Mandalorians were specifically hoping to goad the Jedi into a fight, and we had no choice but to answer their challenge.

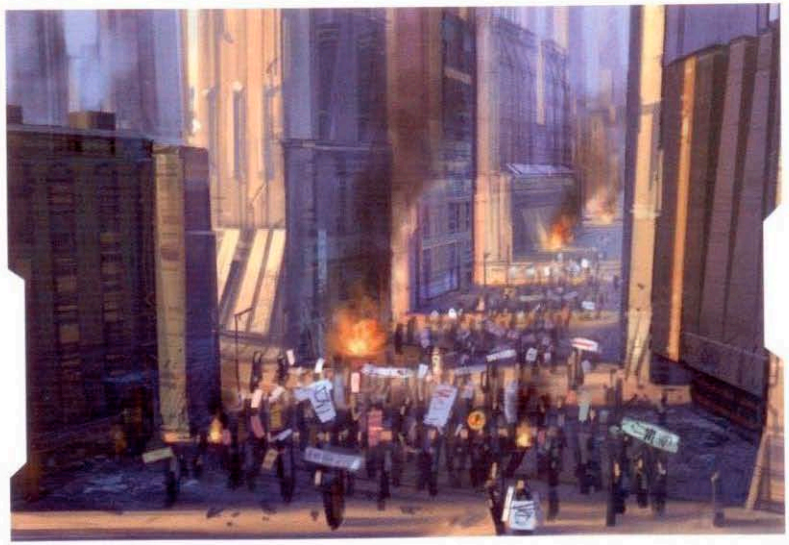
Though we had no capital ships to support our efforts, we had to risk the attack. I myself joined in one of five squadrons of Jedi starfighters that attacked the blockade. We entered the battle with a solid strategy, but the

Mandalorians were well prepared, and we suffered what can only be described as a humiliating defeat.

We have retreated to Devaron, where we are repairing our ships and waiting for further orders from the Jedi Council.

*** I was called back to Coruscant during this tumultuous period and witnessed the calamities caused by the Mandalorian blockade. The Mandalorians have tried to goad the Jedi Order into battle many times in history, and it always puts the Council in a difficult position. Do we reward the Mandalorians by giving them the fight they seek, or do we stand by and watch innocents suffer because of the Mandalorians' ruthless greed for battle? These are never easy questions, and this time was no exception. The Jedi Council debated for many days before coming to a decision.*

Because the blockade was established to support the Imperial war effort, there seemed to be a strong rationale for an aggressive response. Unfortunately, simply making that decision did not make the mission a success. When the news leaked out to the public that we had failed to break the blockade, riots began. During the weeks that followed, food supplies ran low, and we began to hear reports of starvation in the lower levels. The riots grew worse, and even some of the most hawkish Senators began to talk about surrender. It was perhaps one of the darkest moments of the war.



The Mandalorian blockade has been broken. From the halls of the Senate Tower on Coruscant to the dark mines of Pergitor, Republic citizens are breathing a collective sigh of relief. The most surprising element of this inspiring story, however, must be the source of our salvation: an intrepid conglomerate of profit-seeking smugglers. The ringleader of this motley operation was a young Mirialan woman named Hylo Visz.

In some obscure cantina in the bowels of Nar Shaddaa, Hylo and her entrepreneurial friends heard about the miserable conditions on Coruscant due to the blockade, and they recognized a tremendous opportunity. If they

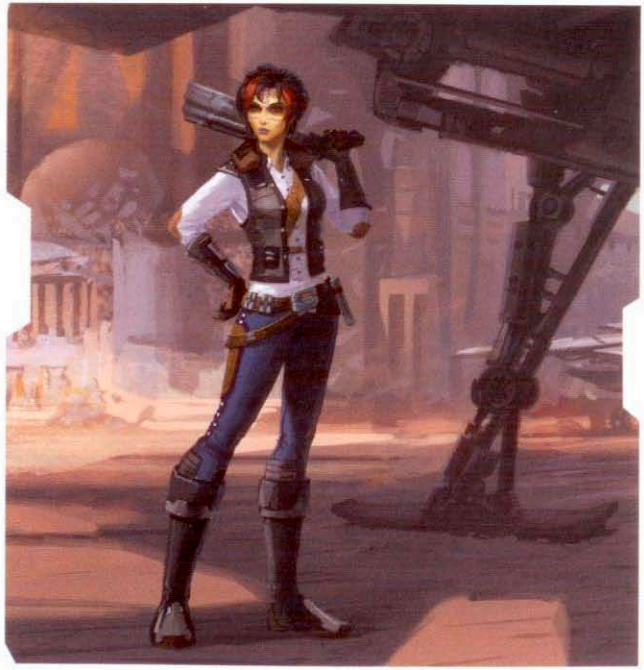
could be the first to deliver resources to Coruscant, they could name their own price. Hylo began recruiting mercenaries, pirates, smugglers—anyone interested in making some quick credits.

When she had gathered together a sufficient force, Hylo and her ragtag fleet loaded up massive freighters of every resource in the Outer Rim and set their daring plan into motion. Though the freighters carried the goods, Hylo took a calculated risk by using them as bait. The freighters approached the blockade and then stopped a short distance away. The Mandalorians hailed the freighters and demanded they turn back. After receiving no response, the Mandalorians moved to intercept the heavy cargo ships only to have hundreds of light freighters and small starships drop out of hyperspace right behind them.

The battle was fierce; even with the element of surprise, Hylo and her friends were outmatched. Fortunately, Republic Strategic Information Services caught wind of the attack as it was unfolding, and both Jedi and Republic starfighters rushed to the scene. The Mandalorians were forced to flee; the day was ours.

Hylo and her friends brought the freighters full of raw goods into the Core Worlds, and though their asking price was vastly inflated, no one seemed to mind. The payment was really a reward and, in fact, it must have been all the reward Hylo Visz wanted. The Senate planned an elaborate medal ceremony, but Hylo didn't show up. Wherever she may have gone and whatever she is doing, though, we all owe her a debt of gratitude. May the Force be with her.

Incidentally, whether it happened during the attack on the blockade or as a result of it, we are told that the young



Mandalore has been slain and a new Mandalore has risen in his place. Whether this new Mandalore is another Imperial puppet remains to be seen, but he will need to move quickly. Since the breaking of the blockade, the Mandalorians have begun returning to their old lives. If the new Mandalore hopes to maintain their loyalty, he will need to do something to increase their morale.

CHAPTER NINE: THE SACKING OF CORUSCANT

An extremely surprising turn of events has occurred. The Empire has approached the Republic with an offer to engage in peace talks on Alderaan. Though we were all initially skeptical of the validity of the communication, Senate officials have confirmed that the offer is genuine. Despite that, the Jedi Council submitted a formal recommendation that the Senate ignore what is likely to be a trap, but the Senate has voted to accept the offer. Though this would seem to be something of an outrage, we have been forced to remind ourselves that the Order is here to serve in an advisory capacity only. In truth, some among us believe that the correct thing is to engage in the peace talks anyhow.

The date for the talks is still some months away, but the Senate delegation has requested an enormous Jedi presence to provide general protection on Alderaan and to provide counsel in the negotiations. It is not without some misgiving that Grand Master Zym has agreed to

the request. The Council believes that the Jedi should remain spread out to account for any other dark plans the Empire may have up its sleeve, but we have elected to acquiesce. Grand Master Zym himself will not be attending the talks however, and we have convinced the Supreme Chancellor to remain on Coruscant. Master Ven Zallow will officially be in charge here at the Jedi Temple while the rest of us are on Alderaan.

**There is nothing more controversial in recent Republic history than the series of events that led to the Sacking of Coruscant. In retrospect, both Republic and Jedi leaders share responsibility for what transpired. It is my hope that the friction

this caused between the Order and the Senate may be put behind us in the days ahead.

I personally attended the peace talks on Alderaan and sat in on the primary negotiations. Despite the Council's doubts, we had come to the conclusion that it was our duty to at least keep an open mind. Nonetheless, I vividly remember the dark sense of unease I felt with Master Dar'Nala as we waited for the Imperial delegation to arrive, and the shock and horror I felt such a short time later when we learned that Coruscant was under attack.

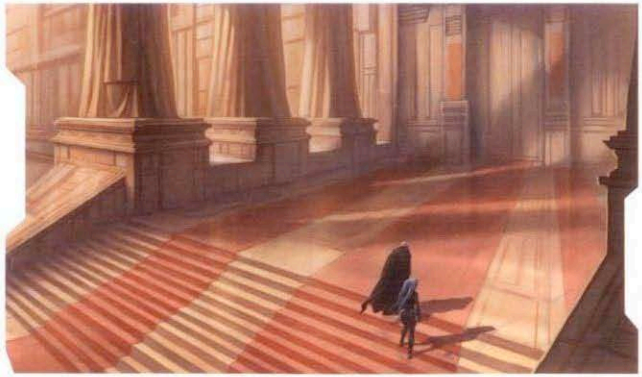
The events of the last several weeks have been more painful than any I have experienced in my entire life. After the Sith took control of Coruscant, we had no choice but to agree to the Empire's terms in what can only be called a treaty under the loosest definition. I hope that signing the Treaty of Coruscant does not prove to be the act that irreversibly sends the Republic into a downward spiral. The terms of the treaty are of course lengthy and complex, but in summary, we have agreed to the following major points:

- A detailed and thorough establishment of new borders between the Galactic Republic and the Sith Empire. Though the borders have been drawn largely based on current areas of military control, there are many exceptions—too numerous to include here.

- The cessation of all Republic military activity within the borders of the Empire. This will require some considerable rearrangement of currently deployed forces, but we have agreed to comply in short order. Of course, the Empire has agreed to observe the same rule in respect to Republic borders.

- The surrender of several obscure, mostly unpopulated worlds of no established military value. We have researched as thoroughly as possible to discover what cause the Empire may have to seek control of these worlds, but we have found no satisfactory explanation.

Beyond these three major points, there are hundreds of further stipulations, and of course there are many questions and concerns for which we simply do not have answers. We are forced to accept the situation as it is, however, and we must trust that the Force is guiding us toward a hopeful destiny that we simply cannot foresee at this time.



Though I have attempted to look at this dark turn of events with the greatest hope, it has not improved my outlook in the least that the Council has asked me to draft a report on the Sacking of Coruscant. There are no Archives for this report to be added to, and perhaps it's that fact that saddens me the most. Nonetheless, it is my duty to describe the facts as best as I can, and though the investigation has been difficult and painful, I am including a summary of the report here to ensure that there is a second record:

The Sacking of Coruscant

Though the Imperial occupation of Coruscant lasted only a matter of a few short days, it is clear that it was meticulously planned for months beforehand. The Sith who commanded the assault and oversaw the occupation made little effort to conceal their operations while on Coruscant, and we have been able to piece the entire

event together quite well through security holo-recordings and communication traces.

The primary architects of the Imperial assault were the Sith Lords Darth Angral and Darth Malgus. Both of these men were already well-known to the SIS and to the Jedi Council for their actions during the war. In the attack on Coruscant, it seems Darth Angral commanded the Imperial fleet, while Darth Malgus commanded the operation on the ground. Angral and the fleet were positioned for a hyperspace jump directly into Coruscant's orbit while Malgus led a bold and brutal attack on the surface to disable the planet's security grid. Security recordings show that Malgus himself initiated the operation by marching up the steps to the Jedi Temple with an unidentified Twi'lek female.

Just then, in what must have been a carefully timed operation, a hijacked Republic military transport was clearing Coruscant's orbital security just as a mercenary referred to by the Imperials only as the "Mandalorian" was infiltrating the Temple's upper levels. Darth Malgus dispatched the guards at the Temple's entrance and boldly walked into the Temple's main hall. Though only a few Jedi had remained with Master Ven Zallow, they surrounded the Sith Lord. Because of the sheer audacity of his entrance, however, it seems they suspected something more was at hand, and indeed it was, for at that very moment, the hijacked Republic transport smashed through the Temple's walls, and dozens of Sith and Imperial commandos leapt out to attack.

As this unthinkable battle scene unfolded below, the Mandalorian was navigating the Temple's upper levels and disposing of security personnel. It is unclear how the Imperials knew that Coruscant's security grid mainframe was located in the Temple, but the Mandalorian was most definitely working with extremely accurate intelligence. It seems now, in fact, that the Sith assault on the Temple below was simply a distraction so that the Mandalorian could disable the security grid. With the security grid disabled, Darth Angral and the Imperial fleet were able to

jump directly into Coruscant's orbit and begin bombarding the planet's surface with no warning whatsoever. Communications, security, and military installations were destroyed within minutes of the initial attack, rendering Coruscant completely defenseless.

We do not have a recording of what happened in the last moments of the fight in the Jedi Temple, but we do know that Darth Malgus and his team were seen escaping from the building seconds before Imperial warships focused their fire on the building and reduced it to rubble. The Sith from the Temple were joined on the ground by massive numbers of Imperial shock troops and battle droids, and though a small number of Republic security forces had rallied a defense, they were overwhelmed quickly.

Darth Angral himself stormed the Senate. As had been

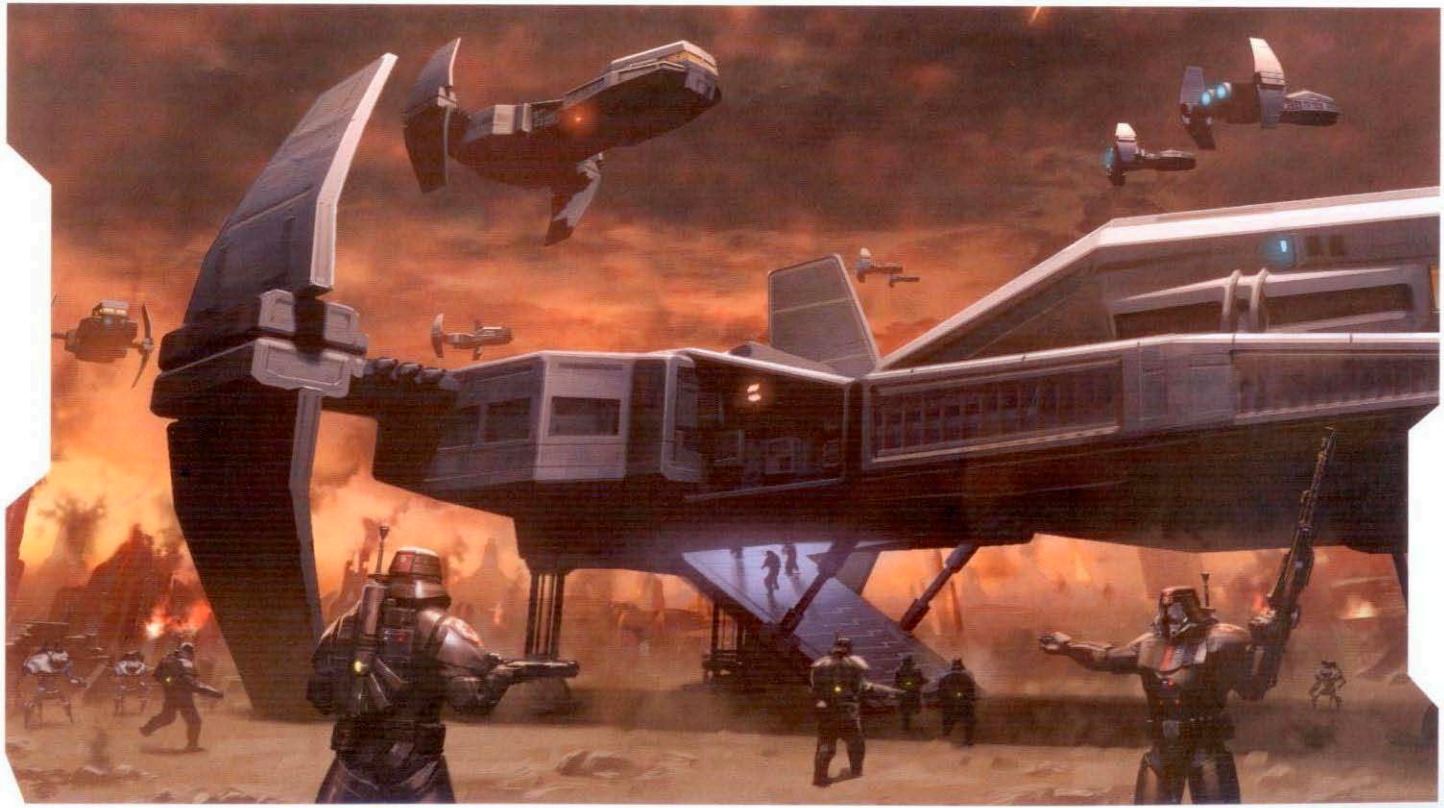
suggested by the Jedi Council, Supreme Chancellor Berooken had remained behind on Coruscant and was at that time in the Senate Tower, where he had an established line of communication with the Republic delegation on Alderaan. The Chancellor alerted the delegation that an attack was under way, but it seems he was then executed in cold blood—an act we believe Darth Angral himself may have committed.

It seems that Angral then proceeded to use the Chancellor's office as his own private base of operations in what, by this time, had become a full-scale occupation. Imperial forces had established complete control over Coruscant's upper levels, and though Republic security forces were still strong in the lower levels, they were shocked and disorganized, in no way prepared to marshal any formal resistance.

Darth Angral and the Imperial forces made no advances on the lower levels, however. They simply sat tight while the Imperial delegation on Alderaan presented its demands in the form of the Treaty of Coruscant. After the treaty was signed, we can tell that the Imperials here waited until they had confirmation that the Republic was complying with the terms of the treaty. Once they received word that we were withdrawing from the designated star systems, the Imperials withdrew from Coruscant. We now can verify that the Imperials did not have sufficient numbers to hold the planet for any considerable duration of time. In fact,

had Republic security forces in the lower levels been capable of a counterattack, it likely would have been successful—albeit at a devastating cost to the civilian population. Perhaps this is why the Imperials' departure was carried out so swiftly and the Sacking of Coruscant had come to an end.

I should add here in my journal for posterity's sake that I was among those who returned from Alderaan to assess the damages on Coruscant. Though the Imperials had fulfilled their promise of withdrawal, they had left their



mark. Our once-regal Galactic City was in complete ruins. Destruction from the bombardment smoldered as far as the eye could see, and of course we only discovered later the massive impact on the city-world's infrastructure. Initial estimates suggest the damage is so extensive that it may take more than a decade to repair.

Of course, among all this, that which was most devastating was the hole where the Jedi Temple once stood. So much was lost there, so much life, so much history, so much of what makes the Order what it is. Will we ever be able to recover from this?

***The sentiments expressed by Master Gnost-Dural were shared by all of us. There can be little doubt that this was truly the darkest hour of Jedi history.*

I was not sent directly back to Coruscant to witness that horrible destruction, but I later learned of something I feel should be recorded here as well. Jedi Knight Aryn Leneer had been attending the peace talks on Alderaan, but upon hearing the news of the attack on the Jedi Temple, she vanished. We later discovered that she had returned to Coruscant to avenge her fellow Jedi even in the midst of the Imperial occupation. She engaged in a battle with Darth Malgus himself, and though she was defeated, he apparently allowed her to live.

Aryn later resigned from the Order. She never explained why Darth Malgus spared her life, but the simple unpredictability of the act gives me all the more cause for concern. Whatever Malgus's motivations may be, they do not bode well for the Republic.

CHAPTER TEN: EVENTS AFTER THE TREATY OF CORUSCANT

It seems there is no depth to the tests we must face. The attack on Coruscant caused the deaths of an entire generation of Jedi—the youngest members of the Order. Now we are faced with the death of our most respected elder. Grand Master Zym was killed last night near the ruins of the Jedi Temple. It appears to have been an assassination, though for what purpose is unknown. A simultaneous bombing attack on the Senate Tower suggests something greater at work, but what is perhaps most troubling is that neither act of violence bears the hallmarks of Imperial involvement.

I am actually relieved to report that Master Orgus has been asked to investigate the matter, so that I might continue to work on reassembling the Jedi Council.

***The bombing attack on the Senate Tower and the murder of Grand Master Zym were part of a bizarre series of events that took place in the weeks and months after the Treaty of Coruscant was signed. Most accounts of what occurred are muddled and confusing. I myself was caught up in these events, and I can attest to the fact that the truth was just as convoluted.*

After the treaty signing on Alderaan, I was dispatched with Master Dar'Nala to oversee the orderly withdrawal of

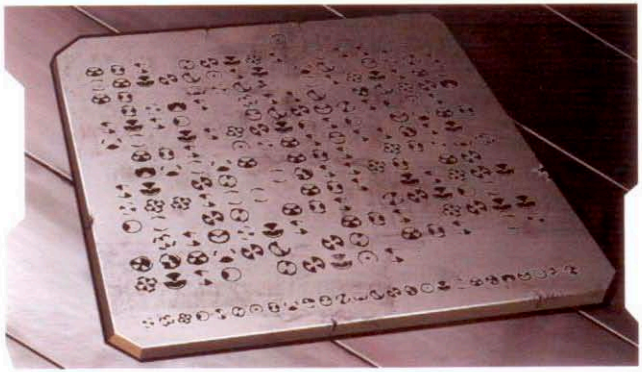
Republic and Jedi forces from several worlds. Most notable among these was the planet Balmorra, where troops refused to stand down and even some Jedi chose to ignore the treaty. Though the Republic did eventually withdraw from the planet, independent forces are still fighting a courageous battle against the Empire on Balmorra today.

Less noteworthy but no less significant, there was another incident on the world

of Dantooine, where I encountered the infamous Darth Angral and witnessed firsthand his continued rage against the Republic. I am still grieved to recall that Master Dar'Nala was killed in that confrontation, but I have to acknowledge that it was a turning point in my own perception of the Treaty of Coruscant.

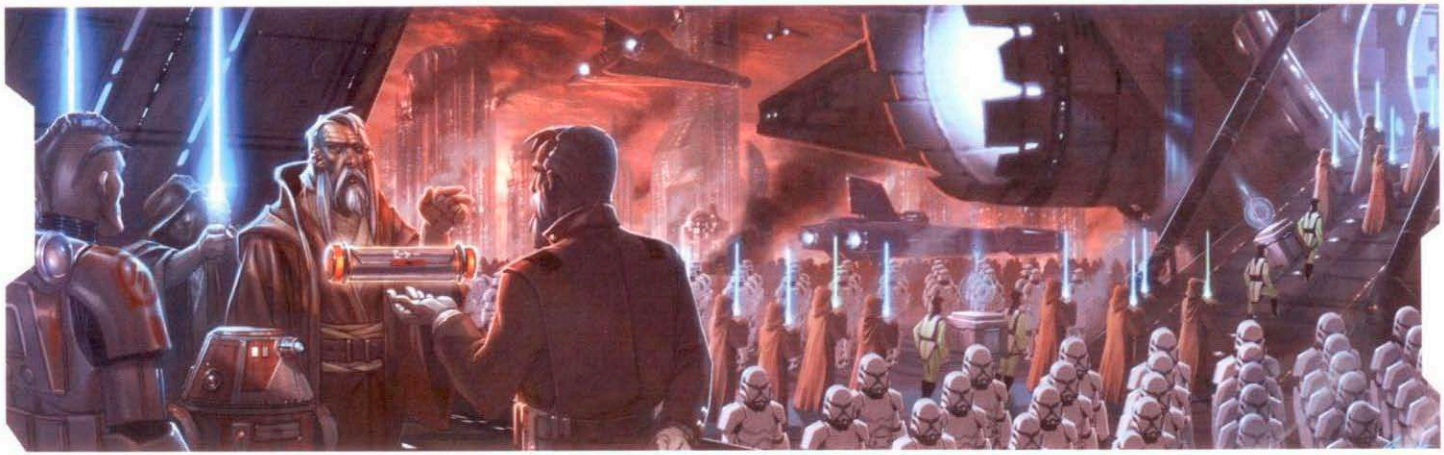
This peace, as preposterous as it may be, is actually a reprieve for the Republic. We must trust that the guidance of the Force is

at work in all that transpires as long as we stay faithful to the ethics of the Jedi Code.



There are apparently many ancient glyphs like this one on Tython. I look forward to learning their meaning.

The future is always in movement. As despairing as I may have felt in the two years since the Treaty of Coruscant, now I have so much more hope as I report an incredible discovery. We have learned the location of the ancient world of Tython, and despite what may have occurred during the Force Wars, the planet is inhabitable today. My work here on Coruscant is done. There is nothing left to salvage from the ruins of the Temple, and so, even as I make this journal entry, I prepare to travel to Tython to study the ruins of a much earlier incarnation of our Order. One from which I hope something might be learned to help guide and deliver us in these dark times.



**The rediscovery of Tython was inspiring to us all—and fortuitous considering what followed. I had only just become a member of the Jedi Council when we learned that the Temple on Coruscant would not be rebuilt and the decision had been made to relocate the Order to Tython.

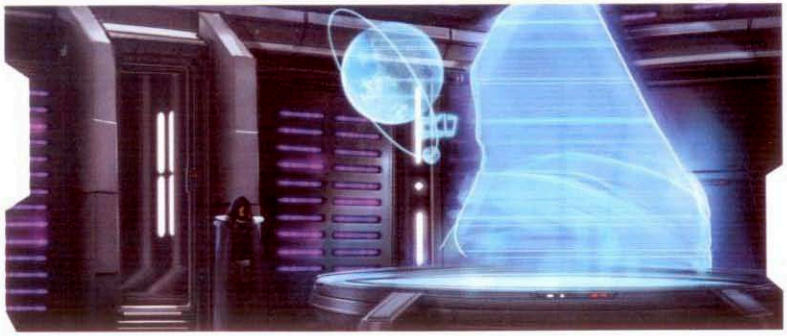
Though there were both logistical and political factors that drove us to make that difficult decision, the image of the Order departing from Coruscant will forever be etched into my memory. I hope that someday the Order might reestablish itself more formally on the Republic's capital world, but for the time being, we are where we should be.

The construction of our new Temple here on Tython brought us full circle by giving us a fresh start on a world where we have our most ancient roots. I feel with absolute certainty that despite the hardships we have discovered, the future of our Order will begin on Tython.

I notice that the entries in my journal grow fewer and further between. This trend is doubtless due to the fact that so much of my time is now spent working with Master Yuon and Master Kiwiiks in studying the Tythonian civilization that thrived here more than twenty-two thousand years ago. Though our efforts have been painstaking and only little has been learned, even that has been enough to reaffirm the principles that our Order is founded on.

Even as we labor here, much transpires abroad, and I have recorded very little of it. Most of my information now comes through conversations with members of the Republic military, with whom we still work most closely despite our departure from Coruscant. It seems that after our departure, the able men and women of the Republic military have stepped up to become more prominent and more effective in the Republic's defense. Though we remain technically at peace with the Sith Empire, there have been skirmishes on certain remote worlds, and the military has proven to be far more effective than some members of our Order might have once believed.

*** Master Gnost-Dural's increased respect for the Republic's armed forces is shared by the Jedi Council, and we are pleased to often be included in military activities in advisory capacity only. There can be no*



doubt, however, that should the Sith Empire resume full-scale aggression against the Republic, our commitment to defend that great civilization would be no less than at any other time in history.

Though Master Gnost-Dural may have expressed some regret at his less frequent record keeping on current events, I will insist that his research here on Tython and his familiarity with the Sith Empire continue to make him one of the Council's most important advisors. We do not know what is transpiring in the chambers of the Sith Dark Council on Dromund Kaas, but we will remain forever watchful.

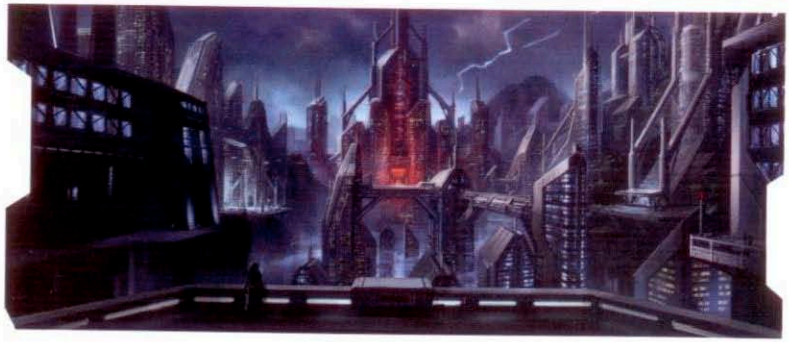
This will be my final entry in this journal. Grand Master Satele has asked that I begin rebuilding the Jedi Archives here in the Temple on Tython, and as daunting as that task may be, I do intend to give myself fully to it.

I must acknowledge that which has been true for several years now—that other Jedi have now stepped up to shape the course of history, and there are even young scholars who have begun recording it. I pass the torch on to them to maintain the lessons of the past, that we may learn from them.

I shall close the journal with one last observation as I look back at our history, and that is simply that there has always been a dark side, and there has always been conflict between dark and light, and though we are hopeful for brighter days ahead, we should perhaps also acknowledge that history suggests that the balance between dark and light may be inherent to the fabric of the Force itself.

*** I include this final observation from our revered Master and trusted friend because I believe it represents an important sum to the massive quantity of wisdom he has acquired. It is clear that we will never vanquish the dark side as we might have previously believed, but the conflict that so characterizes our times is not a balance we can accept forever, and it is inevitable that we will again have to face our enemies, perhaps even sooner than we would like.*

When war with the Sith Empire does resume, it will fall on the next generation of Jedi to lead the way forward. Your choices will not only define your own destinies, but they will also determine the fate of the entire galaxy.



May the Force be with you all.

—Jedi Grand Master Satele Shan

Special thanks to: Brian Arndt, Joanna Berry, Jeff Dobson, Daniel Erickson, Alexander Freed, Dave Geffon, James Jones, Leo Olebe, and Deborah Shin at BioWare; Igor Efremov and Pavel Osminin at Sperasoft; Hez Chorba, Rob Cowles, Matt Fillbrandt, Anne Marie Hawkins, Tim Temmerman, Douglas Reilly, and Derek Williams at LucasArts; Dean Burrell, Jacob Gardner, Emily Haynes, Mike Melby, Emilie Sandoz, and Beth Steiner at Chronicle Books; and Todd Foreman and Nancy Thomas at Public.

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ISBN: 978-1-4521-0760-8

Manufactured in the United States

Art by: Sperasoft Studios, Roman Artamonov, Fedor Losev, Lorenz Hideyoshi Ruwwe, Clint Young, and Arnie Jorgensen

Maps and Diagrams by Michael Voigt
Written by Rob Chestney
Book design by Public

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Chronicle Books
680 Second Street
San Francisco, California 94107
www.chroniclebooks.com

THE JOURNAL OF MASTER GNOST-DURAL